GMA says destabilizers behind kidnapping spree

Story below, COL. 1

Stop tempting Noli, Malacañang told

YUNG TAMANG KANDIDATO HINDI YUNG SIKAT LANG!

By Armand N. Nocum and Juliet L. Javellana

A CIVIL SOCIETY leader has unsolicited advice for President Macapagal-Arroyo: "Stop tempting" Sen. Noli de Castro to run

STOP/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

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- **NPA executes soldier** ACROSS/A15
- **3 Muslims snatched in mosque found dead** ACROSS/A15

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Tuesday, November 25, 2003 ★★ 42 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 350 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Investors foresee big budget deficit

Peso touches 55.70 to $, recovers to 55.56

ECONOMIC HEADACHE. A trader gets a scalp massage from a colleague on the trading floor of the Philippine Stock Exchange on Monday. AP/BULLIT MARQUEZ

By Clarissa S. Batino and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE PESO briefly traded yesterday at 55.70 to the US dollar, just a touch stronger than its all-time low of 55.75, in the wake of the resignation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, which fueled fears of a much bigger budget deficit and massive election spending.

Camacho, whose skill in negotiating international bond deals and partial success in capping a widening budget deficit had won him market plaudits, said on Friday he was quitting at the end of November because he was exhausted with the job.

In their first reaction to the announcement, traders dumped the peso yesterday morning, sending it to its lowest level against the dollar since the political turmoil surrounding the ouster of President Joseph Estrada in January 2001.

The peso closed at P55.56, slightly stronger than Friday's record closing low of P55.585 as investors took profit after traders spotted the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas selling dollars in the morning. Despite the modest recovery, the peso remained the worst-performing currency in the region on a year-to-date basis after having shed 3.6 percent since the start of the year.

"Camacho's resignation must be seen in the context of the run-up to the May 2004 presidential election," an American investment bank said.

JP Morgan, one of the world's biggest money managers, said his "resignation heightens suspicions that the deficit may widen in early 2004."

It said revenue collection reforms were not significant enough to reduce the budget deficit. JP Morgan expects the budget deficit to hit P220 billion this year, P18 billion more than the Department of Finance's forecast of P202 billion.

"Politics has become the central focus in the Philippines (since end-July) and with that focus getting only more intense in the months ahead, in hindsight, Camacho's resignation makes sense," JP Morgan said.

Camacho had expressed frustration with Congress, which treated him poorly and sat on crucial revenue enhancement bills that could rein in the budget deficit.

"Investors have at times questioned Camacho's credibility in terms of reining in the country's chronic budget deficit problems, with 2002 a low point for Camacho, but his integrity as a technocrat policy maker was never in doubt. As a result, politicians did not find him easy to work with," JP Morgan said.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor

INVESTORS/ A8

VAL HANDUMON

WINNING FORM

World boxing sensation Manny Pacquiao shows off his fighting form to President Macapagal during a courtesy call at Malacañang where he was awarded a Presidential Medal of Merit and P1 million in cash on Monday. *(Story in Metro, Page A17.)*

GMA says destabilizers in kidnaps

By Juliet L. Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday raised the stakes in the recent kidnapping spree, saying kidnap-for-ransom gangs were out to destabilize the political order.

"There could be a destabilization aspect in these events and we are monitoring it closely," Ms Macapagal said in a statement yesterday.

Her view was echoed by the spokesperson of the Philippine National Police. The violent manner by which kidnap groups abducted three victims in one week indicated they may be out to destabilize the Macapagal administration, Director Ricardo de Leon said.

"Normally, the modus operandi in-

GMA/ A8

Aksyon, Reporma, Promdi seal political alliance

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SIX days before he is expected to be officially proclaimed a presidential candidate by his supporters in a convention, Raul Roco has yet to get a running mate and complete his senatorial lineup.

At the formal launching yesterday of his alliance with his former rivals in the 1998 presidential race, Renato de Villa of Reporma and Emilio "Lito" Osmeña of Promdi, Roco said he had a "short list" of nominees for his running mate.

He named Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senators Noli de Castro, Loren Legarda, Vicente Sotto III and Manuel Villar, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, De Villa and Osmeña.

The talk in Roco's camp is that he is seriously wooing Villar, since all the others had already made their preferences known.

De Villa told reporters yesterday that he was being asked to run, but did not say for what position. He said he had yet to make up his mind.

Osmeña, a former Cebu governor, said he was definitely not running next year for any position.

Roco, who heads Aksyon Demokratiko, did not categorically say

AKSYON/ A4

'MANAGEMENT SKILLS'

Don't underestimate FPJ, says Peping

By Christian V. Esguerra

ACTOR Fernando Poe Jr. is "not *tanga* (stupid) like people think," former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco said yesterday.

"He's in fact intelligent. He's got substance," Cojuangco said, following the revelation by Pastor "Boy" Saycon of the Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa) that the former congressman was keen on throwing his support behind Poe's possible presidential candidacy.

"I know these things because I've known him for a very long time," said Cojuangco, younger brother of former President Corazon Aquino.

Poe has been his friend since 1959 when the actor supported his candidacy in the mayoralty race in Paniqui, Tarlac, according to Cojuangco. Since then, he said he has known Poe to be "honest and honorable," characteristics that would set him apart from traditional politicians.

"The problem is that people are saying too many nasty things about him this early," the former lawmaker said. "Why don't we just give him a chance and see what he can do?"

Asked about Poe's reported invitation to his wife, Margarita "Ting Ting" Co-

DON'T/ A4

Tabang's Ben: Jesuits' loss lumad's gain

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE STORY of his life is veritable stuff for a *telenovela*. Searching for meaning, taking the road less-traveled, finding the light among a nearly forgotten people—this is straight out of a divine design that has yet to fully unravel. It fills him with awe and thanksgiving.

Benjamin "Ben" Abadiano, 40, has been described as a "rare species" in that part of the wilderness where genuine concern for the neglected is alien to those who wield political power.

Ben is Assisi Development Foundation Inc.'s (ADFI) consultant for Tabang Mindanaw (a humanitarian project instituted by multi-sectoral groups for Mindanao's "largely forgotten citizens") and new program coordinator for peace building. He is also the founder and moving force behind Ilawan Center for Peace and Sustainable Development.

Minus the titles and the groups he represents, Ben is still a remarkable Filipino and Christian—organizer, inspirer, trainer, educator, troubleshooter, dreamer, doer. A man for others.

Ben grew up with grandparents who loved him dearly and gave him pretty much everything he needed. In one of his teachers at Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City, he saw a burning commitment to the indigenous peo-

TABANG'S/ A7

People power in Georgia topples Shevardnadze

TBILISI, Georgia—Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze was swept out of power on Sunday, stepping aside without bloodshed after a decade of mounting discontent and three weeks of protests over parliamentary elections that his critics said exemplified the corruption that had plagued the former Soviet republic during his reign.

Some 50,000 demonstrators sang, swung flags and jumped for joy outside the parliament building, the focal point of the cascade of events that culminated in Shevardnadze's sudden resignation as protesters threatened to storm his residence.

"I realized that what is happening may end with spilled blood if I use my rights" to employ force against the protesters, said Shevardnadze, who for weeks had rejected opposition demands that he step down in the wake of a Nov. 2 parliamentary vote that was widely condemned as marred by fraud.

"The president has accomplished a courageous act," said opposition leader Mikhail Saakashvili, head of the National Movement who was the loudest voice calling for Shevardnadze's resignation. *(See related story in The World, Page A9.)*

By the time the 75-year-old Shevardnadze resigned, some servicemen had joined the protest crowds and it was unclear

PEOPLE/ A8

A FAMILIAR sight to Filipinos—opposition supporters, waving old and modern Georgian flags, celebrate the resignation of Georgian President Shevardnadze near his residence in Tbilisi on Sunday. AP

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northeastern Luzon will be cloudy with rains. Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/11/25/03 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with rains
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	Cebu	Cloudy with rains
Laoag	Cloudy with rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with rains
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains
Legazpi	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains
Calapan	Partly cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with rains

Second FRONT PAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

4 solons set to follow Drilon to LP

By Michael Ubac, Christine Avendaño, Juliet Javellana and Cynthia Balana

FOUR more senators are set to join the Liberal Party after Senate President Franklin Drilon decided to sign up with the party, Sen. Francis Pangilinan said yesterday.

Pangilinan, chair of LP's national organizing committee, said the party had formally extended its invitation to the members of the so-called Wednesday Group who, aside from himself, are Senators Joker Arroyo, Manuel Villar, Ralph Recto and Noli de Castro.

Pangilinan, who is tasked to recruit members for the party, said the response of his four colleagues has been positive and talks are to continue. "All of them signified openness."

Pangilinan predicted that more prominent national leaders would shift their alliance to the LP because of its "proud tradition" and its adherence to "the values of freedom and democracy which the Filipino people cherish deeply."

Drilon, who bolted the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino during the impeachment of former President Joseph Estrada, is set to formally join the LP on Nov. 28.

Drilon yesterday confirmed he is joining the LP to be its chair and would take his oath before LP president Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad on Friday, which is also his 58th birthday.

In a news conference, Drilon said he was joining the party because he was "comfortable" with the people there and many members of his regional party in Western Visayas, the Ugyon party, belong to the LP. Drilon chairs the Ugyon party.

"It's a grand old party with a rich tradition of principled politics," Drilon said of the party founded in 1946 by President Manuel Roxas and whose prominent members included former Senators Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and Jovito Salonga, and former Presidents Elpidio Quirino and Diosdado Macapagal.

In a statement, Pangilinan described Drilon as a "big catch" for the LP as he believed that his entry would bolster the party's standing in next year's elections.

"Senate President Drilon brings with him a wealth of experience and knowledge, as well as a formidable track record in public service," said Pangilinan.

LP leaders, however, were still divided on whom to support in the 2004 elections.

A ranking LP official disclosed that during a straw vote by 16 LP congressmen on the second week of October, the party was divided between supporting former Sen. Raul Roco and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"LP will have to break its ties with the PPC and the President's ruling Lakas-CMD party should LP members decide to support Roco," said the source.

Pangilinan admitted that Drilon could have persuasive influence over the party. "But in the end the national executive committee will make the decision and that should be before the end of the month," Pangilinan stressed.

Ms Macapagal has been named honorary chair of LP, with former Senate President Jovito Salonga as chair emeritus.

Although Ms Macapagal is the honorary LP chair, she is not necessarily going to be LP's standard-bearer, Abad and Aquino said in separate statements.

"That is not automatic. She was given the honorific title only because her father was president of the Liberal Party so (we conferred it on her) to honor those ties," Abad said yesterday.

Abad said the LP is considering either Ms Macapagal or Roco, while Aquino said other LP members were endorsing either Roco, De Castro or action star Fernando Poe Jr.

As this developed, five LP stalwarts yesterday declared their support for the President in the May 2004 elections.

The five were Manila Rep. Rodolfo Bacani, LP secretary general, Nachura, Defensor, Atienza and LP executive director Eleazar Quinto.

The five, however, stressed that their support was preliminary since the 23 LP congressmen in the House of Representatives will still meet next week to draw up a final declaration of support.

GMA: Get drug lords backing candidates

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency to go after drug lords funneling money into the war chests of politicians running in next year's elections.

In a statement, Ms Macapagal said: "One of the reasons we are going down hard on drug syndicates is to check their prospective influence on the elections next year. We cannot allow criminals to interfere in the democratic process or put their pawns in power."

The anti-drug campaign, she stressed, "will be nationwide and unrelenting."

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the President was only acting on reports that "some unscrupulous elements engaged in the drug trade are already placing their bets on some political candidates."

Although no names were mentioned, Bunye said the Palace would reveal the identities of the candidates benefiting from the drug lords' largesse once the PDEA wrapped up its investigation and filed cases against the politicians.

Bunye said this was not a clampdown on the sources of campaign funds of the President's rivals. "Drug operations are illegal and immoral per se and, if true, this means corruption is seeping in through narcotics money," he said. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., AFP*

Solons reviving 'Pidal' inquiry

THE 10-MEMBER minority bloc in the Senate is moving to revive the Jose Pidal inquiry without the participation of the blue ribbon committee chaired by Sen. Joker Arroyo.

Last night, in what may be seen as a way of strengthening the minority's hand, the Senate reaffirmed the election of opposition Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta to the 17-member blue ribbon committee despite Arroyo's efforts to block her entry.

But Arroyo said he would defend his decision to shelve the Pidal inquiry.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said after a noontime caucus yesterday that the minority bloc had decided to support his call to continue the Jose Pidal inquiry "to tie up loose ends."

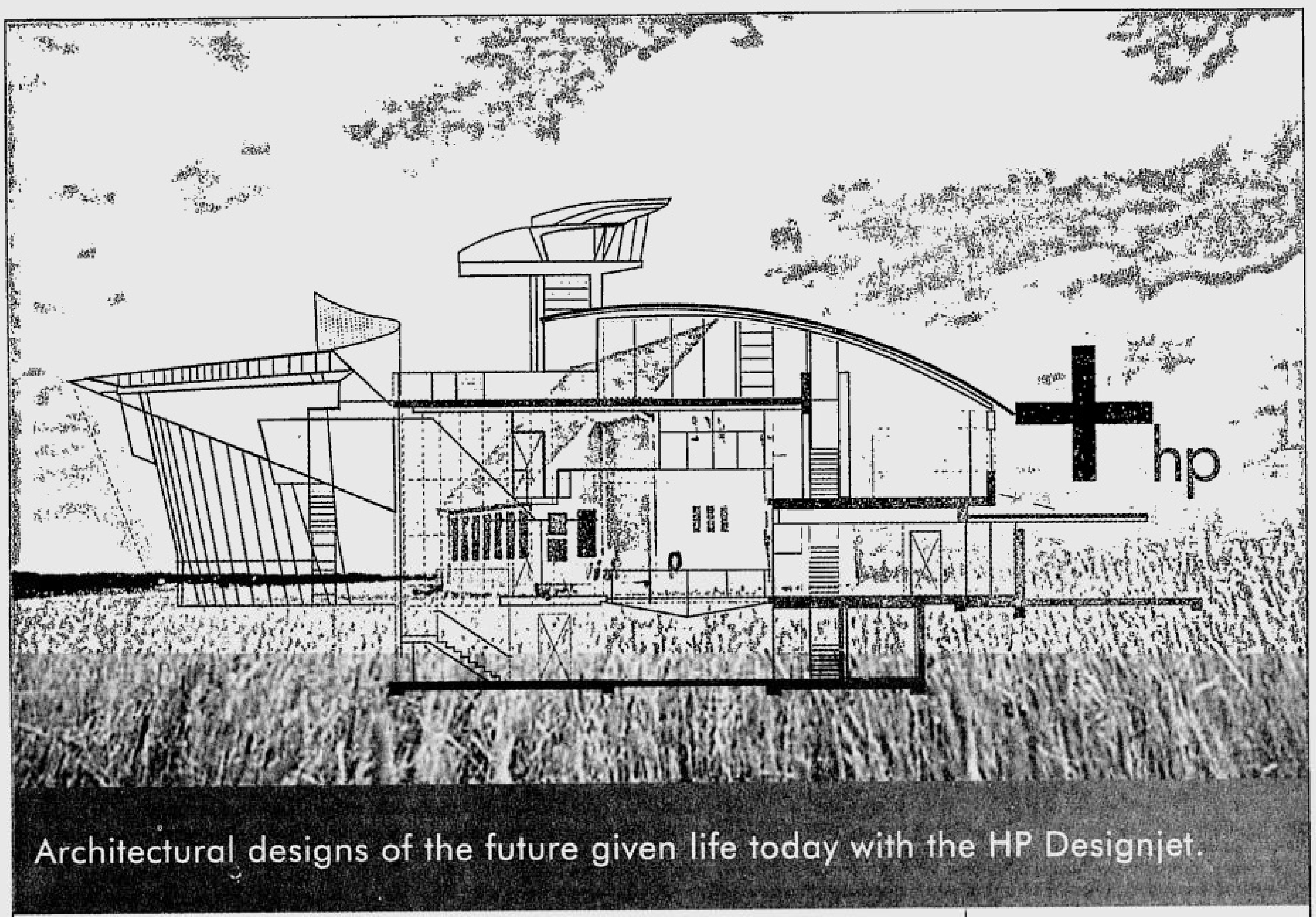
The inquiry, which was looking into corruption allegations against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo by Sen. Panfilo Lacson, was suspended indefinitely last month after Senator Arroyo asked Lacson to provide more evidence to back his charges.

But opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said all the members of the three committees concerned had to do was to "decide by majority vote to overrule Senator Arroyo."

Osmeña, on the other hand, told reporters that his banks committee and Angara's constitutional amendments panel could hold a joint hearing on the controversy since Lacson's privilege speech against the First Gentleman was referred to all three committees.

But Senate President Franklin Drilon said the blue ribbon committee remained the lead panel in the inquiry under the rules.

"It's not that there are three committees and two would be the majority," Drilon said. "It is the membership of the committees that will decide on these issues." *Christine O. Avendaño*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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3569, Series of 2003.

Taiwan VP, exec denied RP visas

By Jerome Aning

TWO top officials of Taiwan, who were invited to attend two meetings due to start today in Manila, were denied travel visas by the Philippine government.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople told reporters in an ambush interview that no visas would be issued to Taiwan's Vice President Annette Lu and Foreign Minister Eugene Chien in line with the country's "One-China policy.

Ople said that only Taiwan's economic minister, Lin Yi-fu, would be allowed to travel to the Philippines to attend the conference.

"Visas would only be issued (to Taiwanese officials who want to come here) for economic cooperation and nothing political," Ople said.

China regards Taiwan as a renegade province and seeks to isolate it diplomatically. The Philippines and other countries which recognize China, however, continue to maintain economic and cultural ties with Taiwan.

"The leaders of Taiwan have a clear idea of our policy and I do not anticipate that they would take any action that would place the Philippines in a different or compromising position," Ople said in a statement.

"There is no change in policy. The Philippines adheres to the One-China policy," Ople said.

Lu, Chien and Lin were earlier invited to the Asia Overseas Affairs Federation and the RP-Taiwan Business Council meetings which begin today and end on Friday.

They had also sought meetings with President Macapagal-Arroyo and Ople.

The Agence France Press earlier reported that China's Ambassador to the Philippines had warned the country against admitting Lu and other Taiwanese officials.

Chinese Ambassador to Manila Wang Chunggui called on Ople last week and warned that bilateral ties could suffer if the Lu visit were allowed, sources who asked not to be identified told AFP at the weekend.

But Ople said there are clear parameters to the One-China policy.

"It's often incumbent upon us to reiterate policies once in a while in order to avoid confusion. Clearly the visit of these officials would not be consistent with this (One-China) policy," Ople said.

He added: "We are very interested in interacting with Taiwan. But our contacts with them, as a matter of policy, shall be limited to economic, trade, tourism and culture and shall not encompass political and security matters." *With an AFP report*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, November 25, 2003
34th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Dn 2:31-45
Gospel: Lk 21:5-11

While some people were talking about the Temple, remarking that it was adorned with fine stonework and rich gifts, Jesus said to them, "The days will come when there shall not be left one stone upon another of all that you now admire; all will be torn down." And they asked him, "Master, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?"

Jesus then said, "Take care not to be deceived, for many will come claiming my title and saying: 'I am he, the Messiah; the time is at hand.' Do not follow them. When you hear of wars and troubled times, don't be frightened; for all this must happen first, even though the end is not so soon."

And Jesus said, "Nations will fight each other and kingdom will oppose kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and plagues; in many places strange and terrifying signs from heaven will be seen.

Commentary

"While some people were talking about the Temple, remarking that it was adorned with fine stonework and rich gifts ..." The temple is only a building of stone and can be demolished. Jesus who will rise from the dead becomes the new center of our life and cannot be destroyed. Christianity has built beautiful cathedrals and churches, but its real beauty and riches have to be found in people's heart. We may feel more inspired to pray in our own church when it has the right atmosphere, yet, it is especially what we do outside the building which has to manifest the fruitful results of God's grace. (P. Foulon, From Spring to Life, p. 354).

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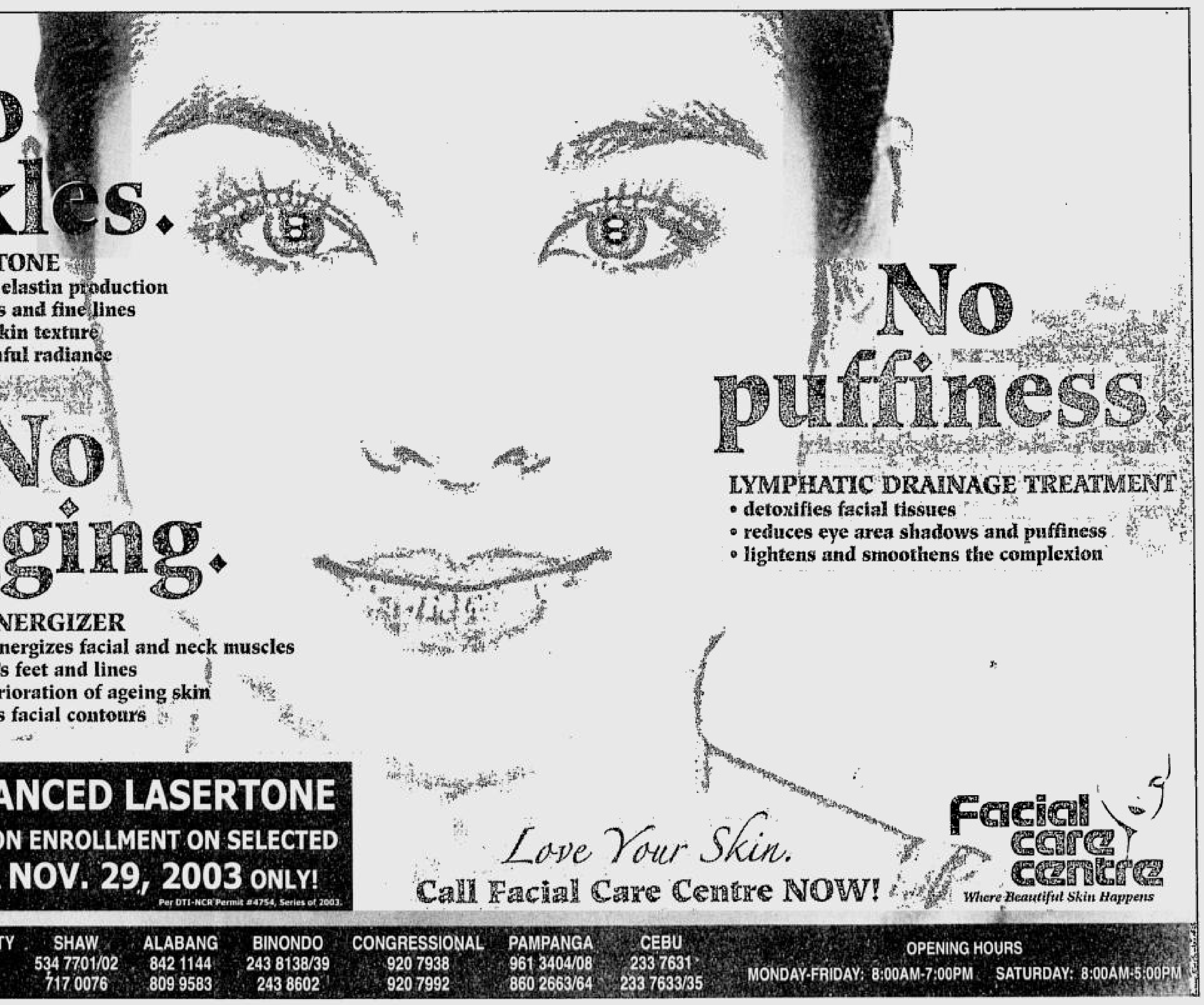

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OPENING HOURS
MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8:00AM-7:00PM SATURDAY: 8:00AM-5:00PM

Aksyon, Reporma, Promdi seal political alliance

From page A1

who his senatorial candidates would be.

But he said he was considering former Solicitor General Frank Chavez, former Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto Yasay, lawyer Mel Mauricio, former Philippine Olympic Commission chair Cristy Ramos-Jalasco, former Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos and television host Jay Sonza.

Chavez and Mauricio attended the launching, which was held at Club Filipino in Greenhills and attended by around 150 supporters. The program emcee introduced the two as "future senators."

Ramos-Jalasco's father, former President Fidel V. Ramos, is supporting the reelection bid of President Macapagal-Arroyo, chair of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats. The former president is chair emeritus of the party.

Roco added that certain incumbent senators had also been "nominated" for his slate. He did not identify them.

"We'll be campaigning as a team," he said.

Convention

Roco had long told reporters that he would name his running mate and senatorial candidates on Nov. 30, during his proclamation convention at the Folk Arts Theater.

"Maybe there'll be a closing in of that choice (for running mate)," he said yesterday.

A search committee has reportedly been put up by the alliance. It supposedly includes former Health Secretary Jaime Galvez-Tan, former Tarlac Rep. Herminio Aquino and former National Food Authority chief Edno Joson of the Estrada administration.

ALYANSA NG PAG-ASA, an alliance of of three political parties—Promdi, Reporma and Aksyon Demokratiko—was launched yesterday at the Club Filipino in San Juan. Renato de Villa, presidential candidate Raul Roco and Lito Osmeña join hands to seal the agreement.

JOAN BONDOC

Reporma, Promdi and Aksyon Demokratiko have called themselves the "alliance of hope." They have also referred to themselves as constituting the "third force" to be reckoned with in the May elections after the administration and opposition tickets.

Earlier, the three parties broke away from the ruling People Power Coalition.

De Villa, a former executive secretary, blamed Ms Macapagal for the split in the PPC. "Since it was disregarded in favor of Lakas, we view it as a dissolution of the PPC," he said.

Independent voters

Commenting on their problems of campaign machinery and funding, Osmeña said he, Roco and De Villa were able to win in their respective home provinces during the 1998 presidential elections without much funds and despite a weak machinery.

Osmeña said he and his colleagues had on their side the "independent voters" who, he said, comprised the majority of the electorate.

Roco, who wore his trademark floral shirt, tried to make light of their situation.

"During our younger days, we were the flower people (generation). When we run out of leaflets, we'll give out flowers. Flowers will be the symbol of hope," he said.

De Villa resigned as Ms Macapagal's adviser for strategic affairs months ago when he supported Roco's candidacy. He said his resignation was accepted only yesterday. *With a report from Carlito Pablo*

Stop tempting Noli, Malacañang told

From page A1

for vice president.

The source, who requested anonymity, said De Castro had admitted his lack of political experience. Why push him to run for the second highest post in the land?

The activist, a veteran of many street demonstrations and usually a reliable source, also lashed out at the Lopezes, the owners of ABS-CBN—the media network that made De Castro—for pushing his candidacy.

If they are so confident about De Castro's competence, she said, why not make him the company's chief executive officer?

"Why foist him on our country and people when they do not even let him run their business empire," she said.

She said the Lopezes were no different from LDP head Sen. Edgardo Angara, who is moving heaven and earth to convince Fernando Poe Jr. to run for president.

"I advice him to first run for barangay captain," she said.

The civil society organizer, leader of a nongovernment organization that actively participated in Edsa I and II, said Poe and other inexperienced candidates should heed the advice of comedy actor Dolphy to stay out of politics because actors are not cut out for it.

"Everyone should listen to the wisdom of Dolphy who is content in not running for office, admitting that he has no experience in politics whatsoever," she said.

Korina, too

Meanwhile, President Macapagal-Arroyo's camp has invited another ABS-CBN personality, news anchor Korina Sanchez, to join her senatorial ticket, a Palace official told the INQUIRER.

"They like each other, there is mutual respect," the official said of Ms Macapagal and Sanchez.

Sanchez confirmed that emissaries of the President approached her a few months ago to ask if she wanted to be one of the senatorial candidates of the administration in next May's elections.

"But I already declined. I'm really not interested in running," Sanchez told the INQUIRER.

She said she had received invitations from other parties as well but she was decided on not entering politics.

The Palace official said Sanchez has been supportive of the President's projects, including the campaign for generic and low-cost medicines and the public information campaign on the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

The administration is looking for "winnable" female candidates to balance its senatorial ticket, the official said.

Sanchez's friend and "Morning Girls" co-host Kris Aquino reportedly had said in a dinner with Sen. Panfilo Lacson last week that she was "definitely" going to endorse the opposition candidate, be it Lacson or actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Sanchez was among the 30 or so personalities included in the initial "long list" of senatorial candidates of Lakas-CMD.

But Lakas-CMD sources said yesterday the "short list" included Senators Robert Barbers and Robert Jaworski, Secretaries Jose Lina (interior), Richard Gordon (tourism) and Mar Roxas (trade), presidential adviser Heherson Alvarez and former Sen. Ernesto Herrera.

Sources said anti-kidnapping czar Angelo Reyes and Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit were "tentative" candidates.

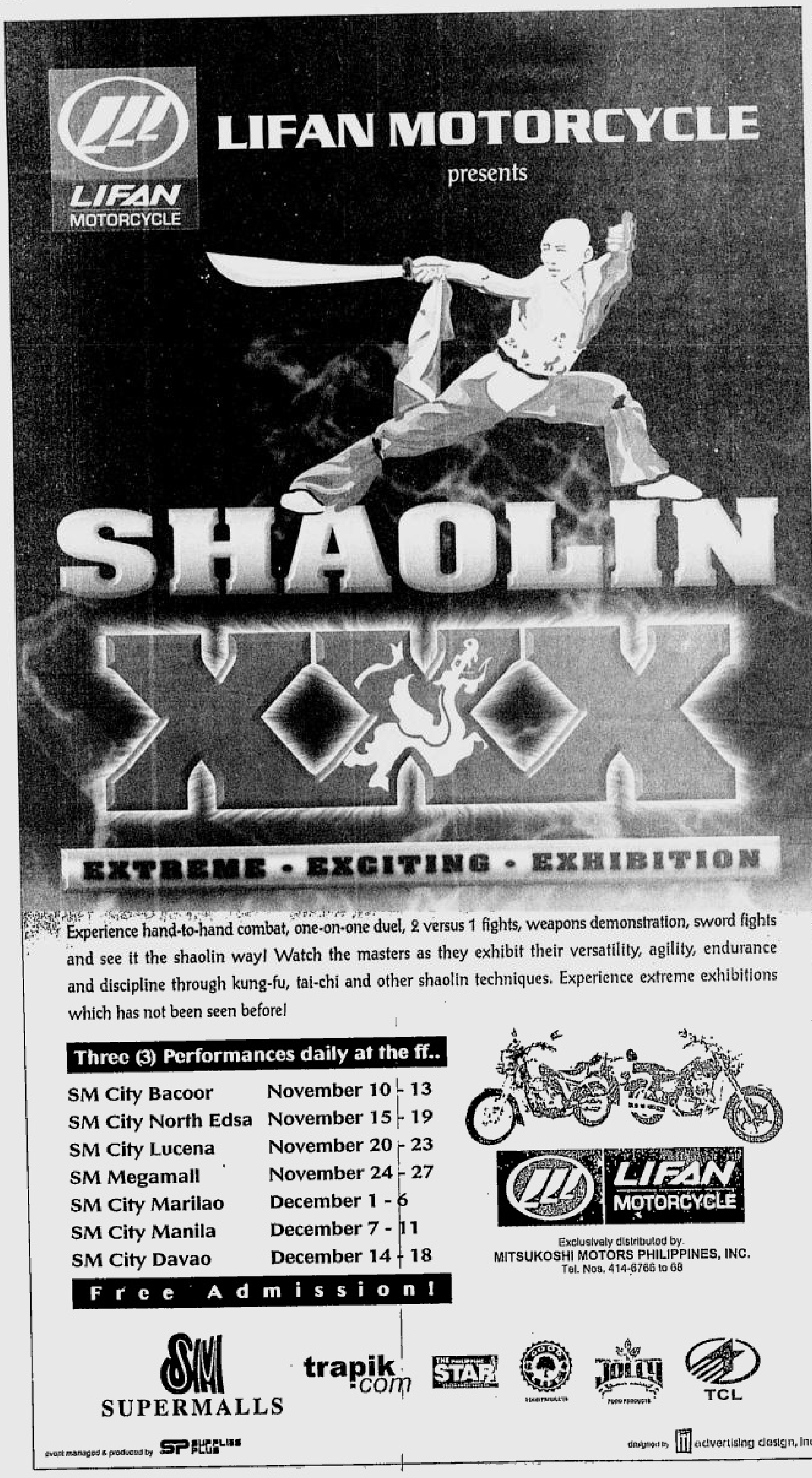
Winnable candidates

The civil society activist said she and her colleagues understood the President's need for winnable candidates.

"The advocacy of the civil society is new politics. Choosing someone not qualified for the post is not new politics," she said.

"The right formula would be for her to pick the most competent among winnable candidates," she said, adding that they do understand how the President should also act according to the scheme of "real politics."

She said she and her colleagues were now willing to take a pragmatic view of politics after undergoing a "humbling experience" during the last senatorial election when they pressed the President to pick highly principled and competent candidates even if they were trailing in the popularity polls.



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From page A1

juangco, to join the actor's senatorial lineup, Cojuangco said "many groups and personalities" are asking Ting Ting to run for senator. "But she has no decision yet."

Ting Ting received the invitations after she placed among the 20 "senatoriables" in a survey commissioned by the administration about three weeks ago, according to Saycon.

Poor English

Cojuangco lashed out at those who criticized Poe's supposed poor English. "He may not speak good English but is it really important? It's not a requirement for the presidency anyway," he said. "The French, the Japanese and the Chinese don't speak good English but they're proud of their language."

Besides, Poe has excellent management skills as proven by his handling of his film outfit, FPJ Productions, according to Cojuangco. "The fact that it has outlived its contemporaries—Sampaguita, Premier and LVN—speaks a mouthful about Poe as a manager," he said.

But Cojuangco maintained he had no concrete plans about supporting the 63-year-old action star, noting that Poe has not decided whether he will run.

He said he has not seen Poe personally in a "very long time" though he was able to speak with him on the telephone about two months ago. In the conversation, which he described as "cordial," Cojuangco said he asked Poe if he was running. The actor told him that he had not made up his mind yet.

"I also told him I was supportive of his stand that he should not be beholden to any politician and businessman in case he decided to run for president," Cojuangco said.

Saycon, Copa secretary general, explained yesterday that Cojuangco "prefers" but not necessarily "endorses" Poe in next year's presidential election.

"If there was any misinterpretation, I would own up to it," said Saycon, referring to his revelation to the INQUIRER on Sunday that Cojuangco was keen on supporting Poe in case the veteran actor decided to run for president. Cojuangco is a founding member of Copa.

Political machinery

Besides Cojuangco, the daughter of the late President Ferdinand Marcos is among Poe's early supporters. Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said Poe would be the sure winner in the 2004 presidential election despite his zero political machinery.

FILM action king Fernando Poe Jr. greets the media after meeting with his supporters at the FPJ Studios in Manila on Sunday.

EPA/MIKE ALQUINTO

"It doesn't matter who his opponents will be, be they from the ruling party or the opposition. There's simply nobody in the roster of aspirants who can even approach his winnability factor," she said.

Leftist groups said Poe is the better choice over President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004. "A Poe presidency holds a much better future than six more years of President Macapagal," said Teodoro Casiño, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

Crispin Beltran, chair of the Anakpawis Political Party which will seek party-list representation in 2004, said "FPJ presents the biggest threat to Macapagal-Arroyo's bid to remain President beyond 2004."

But opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. earlier predicted that if elections were held today, Ms Macapagal would easily beat her opponents.

"As long as we remain fragmented, it will be hard to beat Gloria," Pimentel said.

He said Poe's imminent decision to run for president under the opposition banner could further divide the opposition. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Norman Bordadora and Michael Lim Ubac*

Ninoy, Cory Aquino Center for Leadership launched today at Ateneo Rockwell campus

THE NINOY and Cory Aquino Center for Leadership will be launched at 5:30 p.m. today at the Ateneo Professional Schools, Rockwell campus in Makati City.

The event is timed to commemorate the late senator's 71st birth anniversary on Nov. 27.

The desire to make a significant contribution in the area of leadership development prompted Dr. Rolando and Dr. Rosalinda Hortaleza of Splash Corp. to establish the center through an endowment fund to the Ateneo de Manila University.

The center was named after the Aquinos upon the expressed wish of the Hortaleza couple and with the permission of former President Corazon C. Aquino.

The center aims to develop leaders in all levels of society by developing a theory of effective leadership with focus on the Filipino context and based on scholarly and rigorous research.

DOH admits diverting family planning funds

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE DEPARTMENT of Health yesterday admitted it had diverted P63 million from the P267 million total appropriation for contraceptives to buy "GMA 50" low-cost medicines.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit made the admission in response to a clamor for an accounting of the P267-million fund which the government allocated for family planning in the last three years.

Dayrit explained that since the Macapagal administration's policy was not to buy contraceptives, it used the P63 million appropriated for contraceptives during the time of his predecessor, Alberto Romualdez, as seed money for the GMA 50 program.

"It's very clear that the policy of this government is not to buy contraceptives ... so instead of contraceptives, we got medicines that are badly, badly needed," Dayrit said in a press briefing yesterday.

The GMA 50 or Pharma 50 program is a government project aimed at reducing the cost of basic medicines by as much as 50 percent.

Among the generic drugs included in the GMA 50 program are salbutamol for asthma which is sold in DOH hospitals for P197.60, instead of the P294.75 it goes for in commercial drugstores; atenolol for hypertension sold at P9.85, instead of P17.75; cotrimoxazole for pneumonia, sold at P5.10 instead of P24.10; and glibenclamide for diabetes, sold for P3.10 instead of P7.75.

Dayrit stressed that the DOH could give a full accounting of the P267 million that some groups claimed had been allocated for family planning.

In a statement, the DOH said that it "has never spent its money for the purchase of contraceptives."

He said that there was really no allocation for family planning in the DOH budget, saying the supposed family planning funds were under the family health appropriation.

The DOH said it spent P63 million in 2001 on medicines and augmentation to hospitals; P54 million in 2002 on surgical operations like ligation and vasectomy; P37 million this year on family planning operations, and another P50 million this year on a joint family planning program with the Catholic group Couples for Christ.

Stop child detention, DOJ urged

By Philip C. Tubeza

ACTIVISTS for children's rights yesterday asked the Department of Justice to stop the practice of jailing children together with hardened criminals under "subhuman conditions."

The Stop Child Detention Through Restorative Justice wrote DOJ Secretary Simeon Datumanong to decry the "growing incidence of police child detention," noting that nearly 5,000 kids were jailed this year.

The group said that it would submit a mass petition calling on the DOJ to put the children-detainees in the care of their parents, relatives or the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Child detention violates the children's fundamental human rights as well as constitutional rights," said lawyer Perfecto G. Caparas, a coalition member.

It is also a gross violation of the country's laws, particularly the Special Child Protection Act, and international human rights law, he added.

The group cited Bureau of Jail Management and Penology statistics which showed that 4,544 minors—4,103 boys and 441 girls—were jailed during the first quarter of this year all over the country.

It said that 473 children were charged with theft while 384 were indicted for robbery. The group added that 316 minors were arrested for violating the Comprehensive Drugs Act.

Besides the detention of minors with hardened criminals, the group also urged the DOJ to stop other abuses that child detainees are subjected to such as torture, tattooing, sexual abuse of minors by law enforcers or by older detainees; the extortion by policemen of parents of jailed children; the deprivation of children prisoners of their right to access to medical, legal, social, and psychological assistance and services; and their detention in cramped police jails that have no food, water, medicine, clothes, ventilation, sleeping materials and sanitation facilities.

The coalition urged the DOJ to enforce "the state obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of children in conflict with the law, particularly during the inquest prosecution stage."

It added that this would fulfill "the state duty to observe the best interest of the child principle enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as our own national laws."

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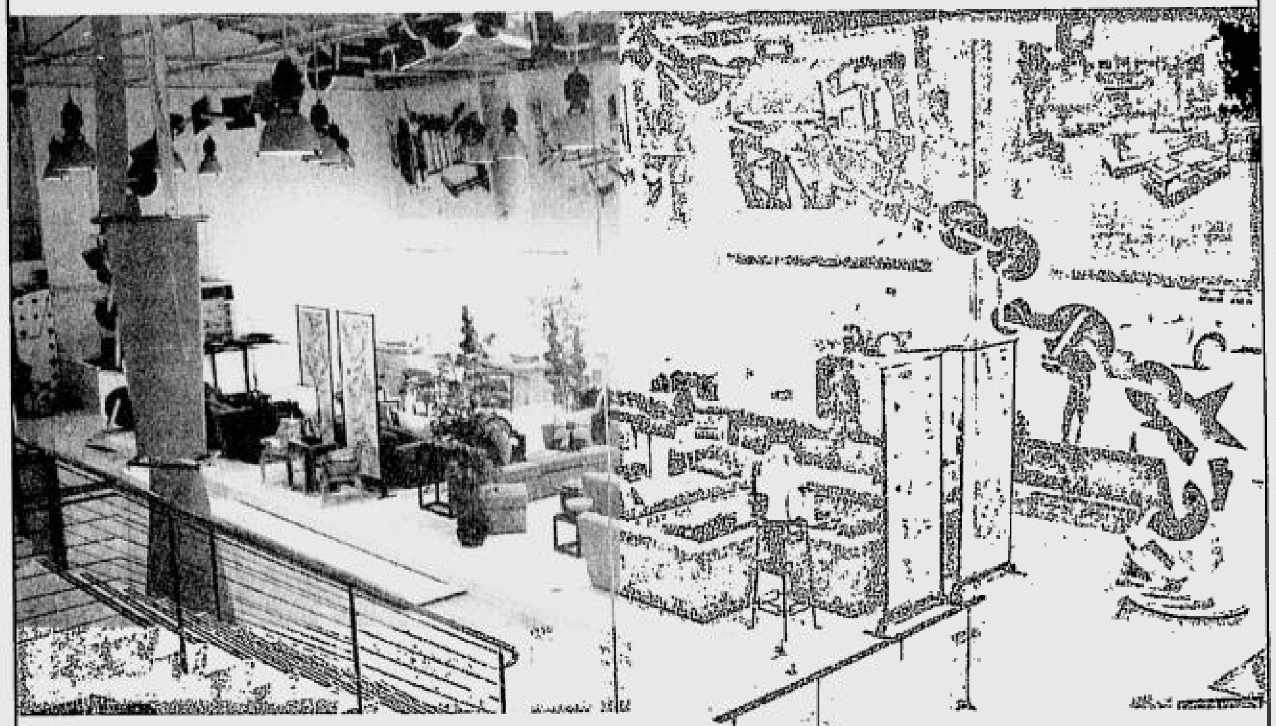

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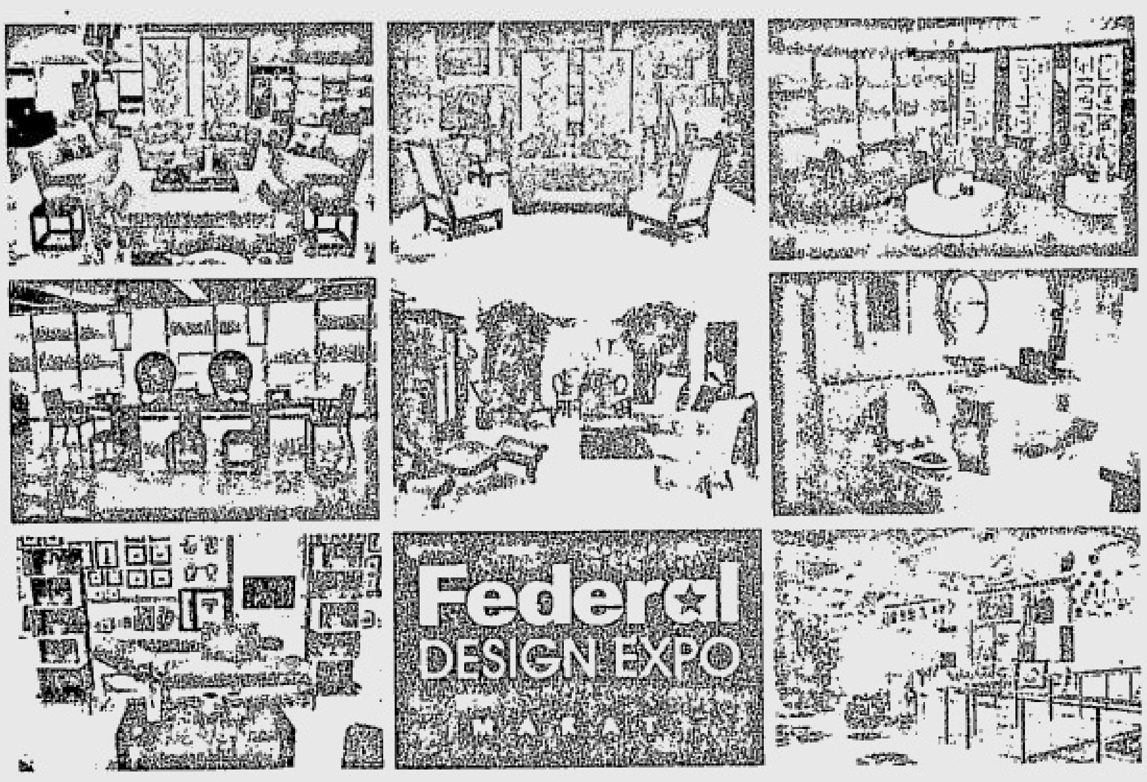

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Malaysia sending advance team to Mindanao

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia will send seven military officers to Mindanao after the Muslim festival of Eid al-Fitr to assess the Muslim separatist rebellion there, the defense force said yesterday.

Malaysia's Chief of Defense Forces Mohamad Zahidi Zainuddin said the team will report on the situation in southern Philippines before the government makes a final decision on whether to deploy ceasefire monitors to Mindanao.

Eid al-Fitr is widely expected to fall on Nov. 25 in Malaysia, depending on the sighting of the new moon.

"They will be there for at least two weeks and the military is waiting for further instructions from the National Security Council and Wisma Putra (foreign ministry) before deciding the date for the team's departure," Mohamad Zahidi was quoted as saying by the state-run Bernama news agency.

In Manila, Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople confirmed the possible visit of a team from Malaysia, which would pave the way for the sending of a ceasefire monitoring team.

"We are also hopeful that a preliminary survey team from Malaysia will soon visit the Philippines to study how best to monitor the ceasefire once formal peace talks begin. We hope that the team will visit us shortly, after which formal peace talks might resume," he added.

Ople added that the government is lining up funding and resources that would be used for post-conflict development and rehabilitation in Mindanao.

Malaysian Defense Minister Najib Razak said last week the deployment of a ceasefire observer team in the area depended on the outcome of talks between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Ople said that peace talks between the government and the MILF are on track.

"There is a frenzy of activity on many fronts, all of which are directed towards the success of our peace talks with the MILF," Ople said in a statement.

"Representatives from the Philippine Government and the MILF have been meeting not only to discuss details of the peace process but also to build trust and confidence. The MILF has reiterated its renunciation of terrorism and has pledged to help in locating terrorists in Mindanao, a pledge that we hope they will live up to," he said.

Ople also noted that on the local front, the ceasefire with the MILF was holding. *AFP, Philip C. Tubeza*

Captors reduce ransom

KUALA LUMPUR—Kidnappers who seized six people from a Malaysian jungle resort last month and took them to the southern Philippines are demanding $5 million from the Philippine government for their release, Malaysia's military chief said Monday.

Chief of Defense Forces Gen. Zahidi Zainuddin said the abductors—whom he identified as pirates—had initially sought $50 million, but reduced the ransom after Philippine troops intensified a search for them.

"Based on Philippine military intelligence, the five hostages are still alive," Zahidi was quoted as saying by the national news agency, Bernama. "Their abductors have become desperate and are now moving from place to place following heightened military operations."

Heavily armed gunmen stormed a Borneo resort on Oct. 5 and snatched three Filipinos and three Indonesians, then fled by speedboat into Philippine waters.

Philippine soldiers earlier this month recovered one captive, a Filipino, who claimed their captors had killed the other five hostages who included his parents. This turned out to be untrue.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, Philippine armed forces spokesperson, said more troops were being deployed to Tawi-Tawi province "because of new information that indeed the kidnap victims were still alive, that they were still there." *AP*

Guevarra interment

THE REMAINS of Domingo Aquino Guevarra, who died on Nov. 15 at the age of 81, will be interred at the Hagonoy Memorial Park in Bulacan on Nov. 26 after the final service at the Hagonoy First Baptist Church at noon.

His body lies at the family residence in San Roque, Hagonoy. He is survived by his wife Jovita Sugbo-Guevarra, children Imelda, Joven, Maurice, Eddie, Rhosie, Ding Jr., Ariel, Deo, Delfin, Dick, Lito, Danny and Thelma, in-laws and grandchildren.

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November 25 of every year marks the start of a 16-day campaign when the world's attention is directed on violence against women (VAW) and its elimination. Women in all countries, bar none, suffer from acts and threats of gender-based violence just because they are women. At a time when advances are being made in many areas of human lives, this shameful act persists as it is firmly rooted in unequal gender relations where men are allowed to have power and control over women's lives.

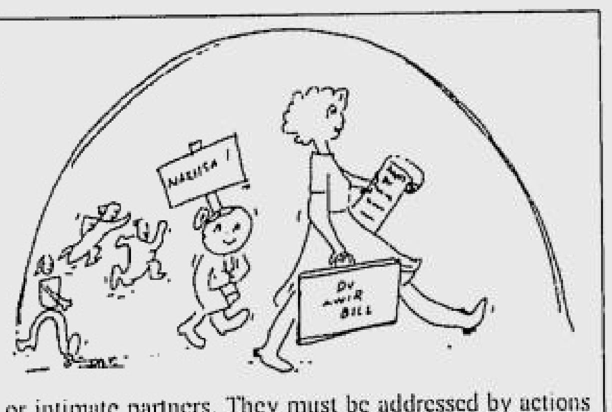
Gender-based violence is a reality for Filipino women. Consider these:

- The Philippine National Police reported 2,381 cases of physical injuries and wife battering during the first semester of 2003, more than half, or 54.7 per cent, of the total number of reported VAW cases;
- During the first six months of 2003, the Department of Social Welfare and Development provided services to 3,471 women in especially difficult circumstances, mostly women victims of prostitution, illegal recruitment, battery, sexual abuse, armed conflict, and those in detention. 1,091 or 31.4 per cent, of the cases were on physical abuse or maltreatment and battering;
- One in every 10 cases of women in especially difficult circumstances was sexual abuse. Of these, 68.1 per cent were rape cases and 29.6 per cent were incest;
- The Commission on Filipino Overseas accounted for 1,013 recorded cases of human trafficking from 1993 to 2002, 64.5 per cent of which had women victims where 19.1 per cent were forced into prostitution; and
- Data from the National Statistical Coordination Board reported that: (a) 64 per cent of VAW cases were inflicted inside the home; (b) almost 50 per cent were inflicted by husbands, relatives, live-in partners and fathers; and (c) almost all perpetrators were male.

We at the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women maintain that VAW violates women's human rights. It destroys lives, ruins families and relationships, fractures communities. Our society cannot claim to be making real progress toward human development as long as its women confront gender-based violence in their daily lives.

Domestic violence and intimate partner abuse are VAW's most common forms. Here, the abusers are the husbands, live-in partners, and boyfriends, even fathers and other male relatives in cases of incest, sexual abuse and physical battering and maltreatment of children. The home ceases to be the sanctuary where women and children are supposed to feel the safest and most loved.

This is totally unacceptable.



Domestic violence and intimate partner abuse are public crimes against persons, not private issues of the family or intimate partners. They must be addressed by actions that help victims and survivors leave violent relationships and survive the ordeal as well as penalize VAW perpetrators and abusers.

Society's institutions must be one with Filipino women in this struggle. We specifically urge our legislators, both our local legislators and our senators, to recognize them as violations of our human rights that prevent us from participating fully in society and fulfilling our potentials as human beings. We thank our representatives in Congress for responding to our concern by passing the necessary bills. We call on our senators to do the same. Be one with us in this fight. Pass the bills against domestic violence and intimate partner abuse NOW. We, who are half of your constituents, deserve no less.

You can support the campaign by:

- *Becoming more aware of VAW, its consequences, and how to respond to it* by seeking more information on the issue. You can contact the NCRFW (tel. no. 735-1646, 736-5250) for information materials and links with other agencies and NGOs that address VAW.
- *Helping a victim or survivor,* should you happen to know one, by referring her to organizations with services for victims and survivors. The NCRFW has a list of these organizations all over the country.
- *Being an advocate* against VAW by speaking out against violence and ensuring that it is not an accepted part of life in your home, workplace and community.
- *Mailing or faxing letters of support and encouragement* addressed to our legislators and concerned government officials, or sending letters to editors and news desks;
- *Being involved in the advocacy campaign activities:* Contact the NCRFW or visit its website for the schedule of all activities during the campaign;
- *Inform us* of your organization's activities.

16-Day Campaign to Eliminate Violence against Women

National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW)
1145 J. P. Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila
website: http://www.ncrfw.gov.ph

Tabang's Ben: Jesuits' loss lumad's gain

From page A1

BEN Abadiano with lumad elders in Mindanao: "I felt grace raining down on me."

ples (IP) or lumad.

At the time, Ben was in the Jesuit pre-novitiate, as his first aspiration was for the priesthood. Anthropologist Dr. Erlinda Burton, a Tingian, opened his eyes to the world of the lumad.

He fondly recalls the first time he spent three weeks in a Manobo community in Bukidnon. His hosts fashioned for him a bed shaped like a canoe—or coffin—which was used suspended like a hammock. Ben loved every minute he spent among the Manobo, although water was scarce and he was given a share of only a liter every day.

"I was amazed at how simply they lived," he remembers. "I experienced a transition. I knew I wanted to devote my life to the IP." He proceeded to write a paper titled "The Natives in Summit of a Divided Mountain."

In 1988, Ben graduated with a degree in Sociology, but was not admitted to the novitiate. He headed for Mindoro Oriental to look up a former classmate working among the Alangan Mangyans in Paitan. Then he went to Lake Sebu in Cotabato and stayed with the T'boli. Soon he was back in Paitan, where nuns ran a school, as well as livelihood and environmental projects, at the edge of a forest.

There he organized the youth and helped put up Tugdaan (literally, "seedbed"), a training school where the Mangyans would learn not only the three Rs but also how to tap into their native genius to improve their lives. Ben's most avid supporter was a veteran in the field, Sister Victricia Pascasio.

Tugdaan is now a major hub where the Mangyan's produce are also tested and developed.

Soul search

Ben was considering getting married and having a family of his own when the religious vocation called anew. He had worked with the IP for almost a decade, but suddenly he wanted to give more. "To offer my life," he says. "As I thought of that, I shed tears of joy. I felt as if grace was raining down on me."

He said goodbye to a sociologist who would have been his wife and left Mindoro. This time he made it to the Jesuit novitiate, where he stayed for four years. He did philosophy studies at the Ateneo and even pronounced his vows, though ordination was still far down the road.

Something stirred inside Ben yet again, prodding him to go back to his first love—the lumad. "I was really meant for community work," Ben says, certain it was no coincidence that he ended up with the ADFI headed by Ambassador to the Vatican Howard Dee, and with Tabang Mindanaw.

Peace sanctuaries

Ben was made in charge of the program for the IP and coordinator of Tabang's Integrated Return and Rehabilitation Program (IRRP). He helped turn 47 communities in Maguindanao, Cotabato and Lanao del Sur into "sanctuaries of peace."

IRRP formulated a peace-building process for war-torn Central Mindanao and its displaced communities.

The process starts at the evacuation sites, explains Ben, since the casualties of war have much to share. "We gather data, demographics. We meet with local leaders, datus, barangay leaders, prayer leaders, tribal elders. The goal is to build trust. The evacuees must feel that efforts are sincere."

After the declaration of peace is written, negotiations between the government and the rebel groups being pursued are next. Ben has played a crucial role in many of these negotiations, after which he would go back to the communities to discuss services, infrastructure, livelihood, shelter and education.

Light for others

Peace efforts have borne sweet fruit in the sanctuaries of peace. But Ben is not about to rest. "We want to be a light for others, especially the poor and the marginalized," he explains.

The Ilawan ("holder of light") center which he founded started as a dream of a circle of friends consisting of lay workers and missionaries. Its vision was to be "a life-giving community endowed with passion for love, service and solidarity with others toward building a society of peace and justice."

It sought to support indigenous peoples' initiatives in building self-reliant communities while promoting their rights to cultural integrity, self-governance, and self-determination, as well as their right to land and capability to care for the earth and its resources.

On Sept. 8, 2001, the center was born.

The group members—with Jesuit theologian Father Catalino Arevalo, Dee, and Sr. Victricia Pascasio, SSpS as advisers—aspire "to be lay men and women for others and inspired by the life and the life and mission of Jesus Christ."

"Ben is of that rare species of development workers driven by the (Holy) Spirit," says Dee. "He is a trail-blazer, willing to go where others dare not tread. His vision is rooted in Christian love."

Ben himself says his life "is governed by *magis*, the love and passion for everything I do." His grandparents' love stoked that passion in him, he says. And now the passion comes "from the feeling of gratefulness, of being blessed. You have to share your best."

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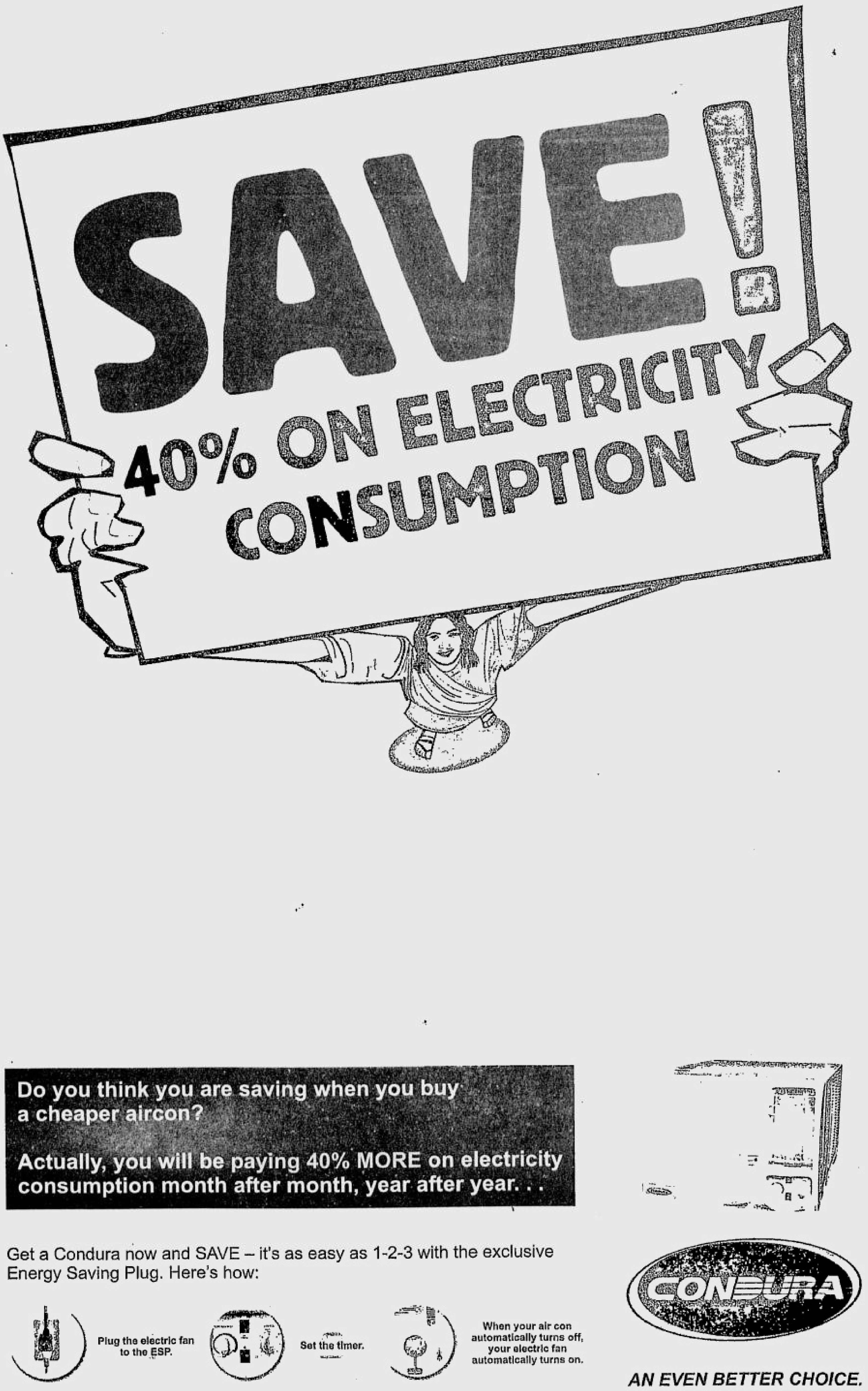

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From page A1

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"I will continue to consult with congressional leaders and concerned sectors of society, including the Church, on this matter. I am resolved to take all means to deter the commission of heinous crimes and strengthen criminal justice," Ms Macapagal said in the statement. "But I must emphasize that the death penalty is not the end-all to heinous crime."

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But the Department of Justice said it would recommend to the President the re-imposition of the death penalty because of the kidnapping spree, Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida said yesterday.

"With the spate of these kidnappings for ransom, the department will recommend to the President to revive the death penalty law and continue with the execution of the death convicts who were finally convicted for kidnapping for ransom," Calida said.

Metro Manila mayors are also rethinking their stance on capital punishment. "Maybe we should try bringing the death penalty back," Valenzuela City Mayor Bobbit Carlos told the INQUIRER yesterday. ***Juliet Javellana and Blanche Rivera, with reports from Philip Tubeza, Tarra Quismundo, Edson Tandoc, Carlito Pablo; AP***

GMA says destabilizers in kidnappings

From page A1

volves silence so the kidnappers won't attract attention and [get] trailed," De Leon told reporters. "The violence they displayed is quite unusual. They're shying away from this tradition."

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye also said the new modus operandi implied the crimes were politically motivated.

"We know that the main reason for kidnapping is the profit motive. We cannot discount the fact that considering this is the political season, and considering the modus operandi being employed by those who are perpetrating these crimes, there might be some people behind the destabilization attempt against this government," Bunye said.

He said the President was not referring to any specific political group in her statement but said "the possibility is there that this is part of the overall destabilization attempt."

In her statement, Ms Macapagal said the government's resolve should not be doubted. "We have a comprehensive plan of action tackling all fronts and it is unfortunate that we have a spate of kidnaps even while we are raking it in gains in the anti-drug campaign," she said, as she reiterated that her administration would bring those behind the kidnap-slaying of young Coca-Cola executive Betti Chua Sy to justice.

Ms Macapagal said her administration was "doing the best it can and we need every law-abiding Filipino on board."

All-purpose excuse?

When asked about criticism that Malacanang was blaming everything on destabilizers as an all-purpose excuse, Bunye said: "We're just raising the possibility that other than the normal profit motive, considering the modus operandi employed and the frequency of the incidents, there might be more to it than just the profit motive."

In Congress, Rep. Rozanno Rufino Biazon called on the Macapagal administration not to use the May 2004 elections as an excuse for the spike in kidnap-for-ransom activities.

Biazon, a member of the opposition LDP party, said government authorities should not divert the people's attention to politicians they suspect of kidnapping to raise funds for the elections.

"It should not matter whether the kidnap-for-ransom activities were committed by politicians or ordinary criminal syndicates. What should matter was that these kidnappings were happening at a rate that is very alarming. Their job is to prevent the incidence of kidnapping and to track down and prosecute those involved," he said.

Biazon noted an attempt by law enforcement authorities to condition the minds of the people to accept the fact that more kidnappings were bound to happen because of the onset of the election season.

"Whether intentional or not, the authorities are simply trying to cover up their shortcomings in the fight against this form of terrorism. In other words, they are passing the buck," he said.

Military response

The military's counterintelligence units are checking if some active military officers and personnel are engaged in kidnap-for-ransom activities, top officials said yesterday.

"We have a very strong counterintelligence effort in the Armed Forces to make sure that we are quickly able to detect any of our personnel who are involved in that. That is some kind of deterrent," said Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces vice chief of staff.

He said some former military personnel had been involved in kidnappings in the past, but admitted that the military establishment had no similar information on active officers and men.

"I'm not going to say that there are active members of the Armed Forces who are engaged in nefarious activities as of now," Garcia said at a press briefing.

He maintained that the military would assist the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) and the police in the fresh campaign to root out kidnapping in terms of intelligence-gathering and operations.

"The AFP will be supporting the PNP as far as intelligence is concerned and in neutralization operations," he said.

Garcia noted that anti-kidnapping special units of the revived National Capital Region Command and the Task Force Libra are on standby status to provide support to the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response, Naktaf's operating unit.

"If there is a need for muscle in the conduct of the operations of Naktaf, then the specialized units belonging to the Task Force Libra and the National Capital Region Command will be utilized," he said.

Joint statement

In a joint statement on Sunday, 28 Chinese-Filipino associations condemned Sy's abduction and asked the government to reimpose the death penalty for kidnappers.

"The curse of kidnapping for ransom is getting bolder. Once again, it strikes fear and dread in our communities," the statement said.

The rash of violent kidnappings led one Palace official, who asked to be unnamed, to say that the frequency and location of the kidnappings were "too much of a coincidence."

"They are dumping the bodies on the Diosado Macapagal Boulevard," the official noted, saying this was meant to project a negative image of the President.

Last week, a member of the Pacer team said that authorities were convinced that the recent spate of kidnappings were anything but simple crimes.

They could also be intended to show the Chinese-Filipino community that President Macapagal-Arroyo and her anti-kidnapping point man, former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, were helpless against kidnap gangs, the Pacer source told the INQUIRER. ***With reports from Christian V. Esguerra, TJ Burgonio, Cynthia Balana; AP***

People power in Georgia topples Shevardnadze

From page A1

whether police and soldiers would have obeyed orders to use force.

Outside parliament, the news of Shevardnadze's ouster turned the protest into a party. Crowds packed the streets of the capital, pouring champagne, honking car horns and celebrating into the night.

"It's a great day in the history of Georgia," said medical student Georgy Gosishvili, 21, waving the white flag with red stripes and crosses that is the symbol of what was, until Sunday afternoon, the opposition.

Parliament Speaker Nino Burdzhanadze, another opposition leader, assumed the presidency temporarily and pledged on Monday to hold new presidential and parliamentary elections in 45 days as required by the constitution.

Swift denouement

Burdzhanadze, a scholarly-looking 39-year-old lawyer, told law enforcement agencies to establish order and urged Georgians to resume work and normal life.

The swift denouement came after oppositionists rushed into parliament on Saturday as Shevardnadze tried to convene the legislature that his government said was elected in the vote. The president was hustled out a back door by leather-jacketed bodyguards in a nationally televised scene that began the tense endgame.

On Sunday, Saakashvili issued a resignation ultimatum and said Shevardnadze's residence would be stormed if he didn't comply. As protesters converged on the residence, Saakashvili and Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov arrived separately. Within about an hour, Shevardnadze's resignation was announced.

Many Georgians have long detested Shevardnadze for letting corruption infest the country while most of its people fell into poverty, scraping by on tiny salaries and pensions amid chronic power outages and water shortages.

It was the parliamentary elections that galvanized the opposition and started the swell of protest.

Complaints of widespread ballot-box stuffing and other abuses quickly emerged, and opposition forces led by the fiery and erudite Saakashvili began daily protests outside parliament that attracted thousands, sometimes tens of thousands, demanding the elections be annulled or that Shevardnadze resign.

Shevardnadze called for "dialogue" but insisted he would stay in office through the end of his term in 2005. He refused to void the vote.

But his grip loosened and his options shrank over the weekend as the opposition chased him out of parliament and some military units defected to the protesters.

When elation over Shevardnadze's resignation fades, Georgia's new president and members of parliament will face a stern challenge in maintaining unity and dealing with the Caucasus nation's persistent problems.

Of strategic interest

Georgia, which sits astride a planned oil pipeline between the Caspian Sea and Western customers, is wedged between Turkey and Russia. It is of substantial strategic interest to both Washington and Moscow, which has shown its desire for involvement by sending Ivanov to Tbilisi and has bristled at US military involvement in the nation.

The United States recognized Burdzhanadze as interim president, offering support for Georgia's new leaders while urging them to seek stability, abide by the constitution and hold democratic elections.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell called Burdzhanadze "to offer our support and to encourage her and her colleagues to proceed in a manner consistent with Georgia's constitution."

The European Union said Shevardnadze's resignation "opens the way to restoration of constitutional law and order" and stressed that democratic elections must be held to help "restore a climate of trust and confidence" in Georgia.

Richard Boucher, spokesperson of the US Department of State, said Sunday that Shevardnadze "made his decision in the best interests of the people." He praised the former Soviet foreign minister—who helped reunite Germany and wind down the Cold War under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev—as "a towering figure in Georgian history and a close friend of the United States."

Burdzhanadze said Monday that Georgia would seek to improve ties with Russia while firmly maintaining its efforts to join Nato and integrate with Europe. *AP*

Pimentel: GMA may meet same fate

OPPOSITION Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday warned President Macapagal-Arroyo could meet the same fate as ousted Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze should there be massive cheating in the national and local elections in May next year.

"What happened to Georgia should be a fair warning to the administration not to tamper with the will of the people in the 2004 elections," Pimentel said.

He pointed out that the peaceful "people power" revolt that ousted Shevardnadze was sparked by widespread corruption in government and massive fraud during Georgia's parliamentary elections on Nov. 2.

Pimentel said the Georgian uprising was, in many aspects, patterned after the Edsa I "people power" revolution that ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, and the Edsa II "people power" revolution that unseated then President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

Michael Lim Ubac

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Investors foresee big budget deficit

From page A1

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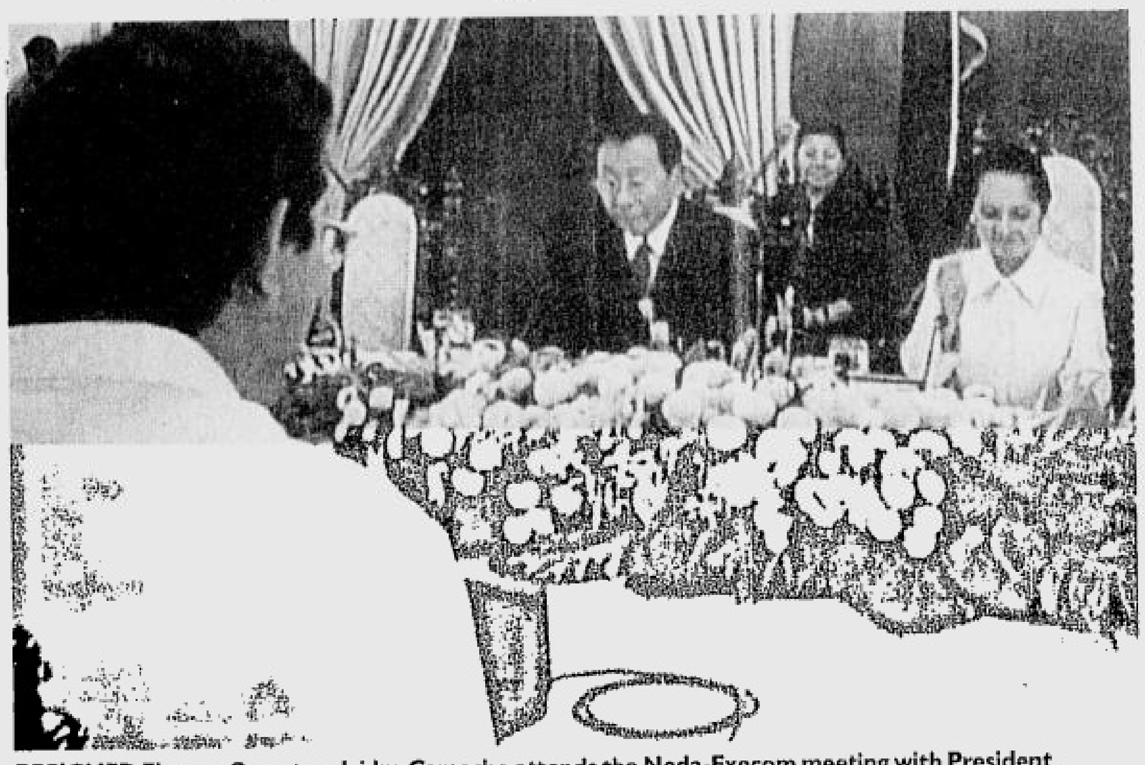

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But the Department of Justice said it would recommend to the President the re-imposition of the death penalty because of the kidnapping spree, Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida said yesterday.

"With the spate of these kidnappings for ransom, the department will recommend to the President to revive the death penalty law and continue with the execution of the death convicts who were finally convicted for kidnapping for ransom," Calida said.

Metro Manila mayors are also rethinking their stance on capital punishment. "Maybe we should try bringing the death penalty back," Valenzuela City Mayor Bobbit Carlos told the INQUIRER yesterday. ***Juliet Javellana and Blanche Rivera, with reports from Philip Tubeza, Tarra Quismundo, Edson Tandoc, Carlito Pablo; AP***

GMA says destabilizers in kidnappings

From page A1

volves silence so the kidnappers won't attract attention and [get] trailed," De Leon told reporters. "The violence they displayed is quite unusual. They're shying away from this tradition."

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye also said the new modus operandi implied the crimes were politically motivated.

"We know that the main reason for kidnapping is the profit motive. We cannot discount the fact that considering this is the political season, and considering the modus operandi being employed by those who are perpetrating these crimes, there might be some people behind the destabilization attempt against this government," Bunye said.

He said the President was not referring to any specific political group in her statement but said "the possibility is there that this is part of the overall destabilization attempt."

In her statement, Ms Macapagal said the government's resolve should not be doubted. "We have a comprehensive plan of action tackling all fronts and it is unfortunate that we have a spate of kidnaps even while we are raking it in gains in the anti-drug campaign," she said, as she reiterated that her administration would bring those behind the kidnap-slaying of young Coca-Cola executive Betti Chua Sy to justice.

Ms Macapagal said her administration was "doing the best it can and we need every law-abiding Filipino on board."

All-purpose excuse?

When asked about criticism that Malacanang was blaming everything on destabilizers as an all-purpose excuse, Bunye said: "We're just raising the possibility that other than the normal profit motive, considering the modus operandi employed and the frequency of the incidents, there might be more to it than just the profit motive."

In Congress, Rep. Rozanno Rufino Biazon called on the Macapagal administration not to use the May 2004 elections as an excuse for the spike in kidnap-for-ransom activities.

Biazon, a member of the opposition LDP party, said government authorities should not divert the people's attention to politicians they suspect of kidnapping to raise funds for the elections.

"It should not matter whether the kidnap-for-ransom activities were committed by politicians or ordinary criminal syndicates. What should matter was that these kidnappings were happening at a rate that is very alarming. Their job is to prevent the incidence of kidnapping and to track down and prosecute those involved," he said.

Biazon noted an attempt by law enforcement authorities to condition the minds of the people to accept the fact that more kidnappings were bound to happen because of the onset of the election season.

"Whether intentional or not, the authorities are simply trying to cover up their shortcomings in the fight against this form of terrorism. In other words, they are passing the buck," he said.

Military response

The military's counterintelligence units are checking if some active military officers and personnel are engaged in kidnap-for-ransom activities, top officials said yesterday.

"We have a very strong counterintelligence effort in the Armed Forces to make sure that we are quickly able to detect any of our personnel who are involved in that. That is some kind of deterrent," said Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces vice chief of staff.

He said some former military personnel had been involved in kidnappings in the past, but admitted that the military establishment had no similar information on active officers and men.

"I'm not going to say that there are active members of the Armed Forces who are engaged in nefarious activities as of now," Garcia said at a press briefing.

He maintained that the military would assist the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) and the police in the fresh campaign to root out kidnapping in terms of intelligence-gathering and operations.

"The AFP will be supporting the PNP as far as intelligence is concerned and in neutralization operations," he said.

Garcia noted that anti-kidnapping special units of the revived National Capital Region Command and the Task Force Libra are on standby status to provide support to the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response, Naktaf's operating unit.

"If there is a need for muscle in the conduct of the operations of Naktaf, then the specialized units belonging to the Task Force Libra and the National Capital Region Command will be utilized," he said.

Joint statement

In a joint statement on Sunday, 28 Chinese-Filipino associations condemned Sy's abduction and asked the government to reimpose the death penalty for kidnappers.

"The curse of kidnapping for ransom is getting bolder. Once again, it strikes fear and dread in our communities," the statement said.

The rash of violent kidnappings led one Palace official, who asked to be unnamed, to say that the frequency and location of the kidnappings were "too much of a coincidence."

"They are dumping the bodies on the Diosado Macapagal Boulevard," the official noted, saying this was meant to project a negative image of the President.

Last week, a member of the Pacer team said that authorities were convinced that the recent spate of kidnappings were anything but simple crimes.

They could also be intended to show the Chinese-Filipino community that President Macapagal-Arroyo and her anti-kidnapping point man, former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, were helpless against kidnap gangs, the Pacer source told the INQUIRER. ***With reports from Christian V. Esguerra, TJ Burgonio, Cynthia Balana; AP***

People power in Georgia topples Shevardnadze

From page A1

whether police and soldiers would have obeyed orders to use force.

Outside parliament, the news of Shevardnadze's ouster turned the protest into a party. Crowds packed the streets of the capital, pouring champagne, honking car horns and celebrating into the night.

"It's a great day in the history of Georgia," said medical student Georgy Gosishvili, 21, waving the white flag with red stripes and crosses that is the symbol of what was, until Sunday afternoon, the opposition.

Parliament Speaker Nino Burdzhanadze, another opposition leader, assumed the presidency temporarily and pledged on Monday to hold new presidential and parliamentary elections in 45 days as required by the constitution.

Swift denouement

Burdzhanadze, a scholarly-looking 39-year-old lawyer, told law enforcement agencies to establish order and urged Georgians to resume work and normal life.

The swift denouement came after oppositionists rushed into parliament on Saturday as Shevardnadze tried to convene the legislature that his government said was elected in the vote. The president was hustled out a back door by leather-jacketed bodyguards in a nationally televised scene that began the tense endgame.

On Sunday, Saakashvili issued a resignation ultimatum and said Shevardnadze's residence would be stormed if he didn't comply. As protesters converged on the residence, Saakashvili and Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov arrived separately. Within about an hour, Shevardnadze's resignation was announced.

Many Georgians have long detested Shevardnadze for letting corruption infest the country while most of its people fell into poverty, scraping by on tiny salaries and pensions amid chronic power outages and water shortages.

It was the parliamentary elections that galvanized the opposition and started the swell of protest.

Complaints of widespread ballot-box stuffing and other abuses quickly emerged, and opposition forces led by the fiery and erudite Saakashvili began daily protests outside parliament that attracted thousands, sometimes tens of thousands, demanding the elections be annulled or that Shevardnadze resign.

Shevardnadze called for "dialogue" but insisted he would stay in office through the end of his term in 2005. He refused to void the vote.

But his grip loosened and his options shrank over the weekend as the opposition chased him out of parliament and some military units defected to the protesters.

When elation over Shevardnadze's resignation fades, Georgia's new president and members of parliament will face a stern challenge in maintaining unity and dealing with the Caucasus nation's persistent problems.

Of strategic interest

Georgia, which sits astride a planned oil pipeline between the Caspian Sea and Western customers, is wedged between Turkey and Russia. It is of substantial strategic interest to both Washington and Moscow, which has shown its desire for involvement by sending Ivanov to Tbilisi and has bristled at US military involvement in the nation.

The United States recognized Burdzhanadze as interim president, offering support for Georgia's new leaders while urging them to seek stability, abide by the constitution and hold democratic elections.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell called Burdzhanadze "to offer our support and to encourage her and her colleagues to proceed in a manner consistent with Georgia's constitution."

The European Union said Shevardnadze's resignation "opens the way to restoration of constitutional law and order" and stressed that democratic elections must be held to help "restore a climate of trust and confidence" in Georgia.

Richard Boucher, spokesperson of the US Department of State, said Sunday that Shevardnadze "made his decision in the best interests of the people." He praised the former Soviet foreign minister—who helped reunite Germany and wind down the Cold War under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev—as "a towering figure in Georgian history and a close friend of the United States."

Burdzhanadze said Monday that Georgia would seek to improve ties with Russia while firmly maintaining its efforts to join Nato and integrate with Europe. *AP*

Pimentel: GMA may meet same fate

OPPOSITION Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday warned President Macapagal-Arroyo could meet the same fate as ousted Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze should there be massive cheating in the national and local elections in May next year.

"What happened to Georgia should be a fair warning to the administration not to tamper with the will of the people in the 2004 elections," Pimentel said.

He pointed out that the peaceful "people power" revolt that ousted Shevardnadze was sparked by widespread corruption in government and massive fraud during Georgia's parliamentary elections on Nov. 2.

Pimentel said the Georgian uprising was, in many aspects, patterned after the Edsa I "people power" revolution that ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, and the Edsa II "people power" revolution that unseated then President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

Michael Lim Ubac

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Shevardnadze toppled by proteges who turned against him

TBILISI—The young opposition leaders who toppled Eduard Shevardnadze from Georgia's presidency this weekend were people he befriended, nurtured and launched on their political careers before they turned against him.

Like Shakespeare's King Lear, Shevardnadze, 75, was ruined by those he loved the most.

Immediately before his ouster, opposition leaders who had been spearheading protests invited themselves to his official residence just outside the capital to demand that he step down. At that meeting were three politicians whom Shevardnadze had done more than anyone to create.

The most senior of the trio was Zurab Zhvania. A short, thick-set man with receding hair, until two years ago he was Shevardnadze's closest political associate and the man seen as heir apparent to the president.

He was a leading light in the Citizens' Union of Georgia, the governing bloc. As speaker of parliament until he quit at the end of 2001, he was widely regarded as Georgia's second most influential politician. Now he is in opposition, as joint leader of the Burjanadze-Democrats bloc.

Sitting alongside him in the president's Krtsanisi residence Sunday was Nino Burjanadze, the elegant 39-year-old mother-of-two with jet black hair who replaced Zhvania as speaker of parliament.

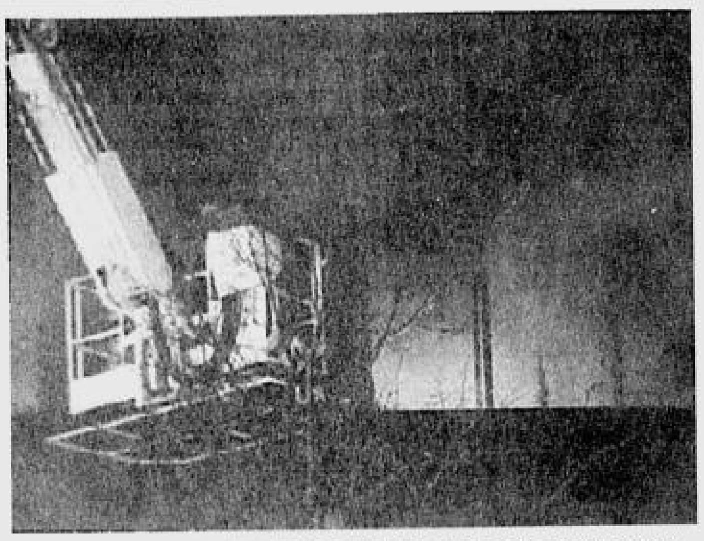
Her ties to Shevardnadze are even closer. Her father rose up through the Georgian Communist Party ranks with Shevardnadze and was for many years head of the state bread monopoly. The two families were close.

Under Shevardnadze's tutelage, Burjanadze entered politics, also in the pro-government bloc. At the same time, her husband was appointed first deputy prosecutor general.

She quit as speaker six months ago, and with Zhvania set up her own opposition party. She has taken over from Shevardnadze as caretaker head of state.

The third figure facing Shevardnadze across the negotiating table was another former protege, Mikhail Saakashvili.

He became a rising star in the Citizens' Union. He was elected to parliament and in 2000, Shevardnadze appointed him as his justice minister. But soon after he resigned and set up the National Movement opposition party. *AFP*



32 FOREIGN STUDENTS DEAD IN MOSCOW FIRE
Firefighters extinguish the fire which engulfed most of a five-story dormitory of Moscow's Peoples' Friendship University early Nov. 24 in this TV image. The fire killed at least 32 people and injured 139 others. AP

3 US troopers killed, bodies mutilated in Iraq

MOSUL, Iraq—Three US soldiers were killed in northern Iraq on Sunday, including two whom witnesses said had their throats cut, as the US military announced it had closed Baghdad airport to civilian traffic after a missile hit on a DHL cargo jet.

Two shopkeepers who saw the deaths of the two soldiers in this main northern city said they had their throats slit after being ambushed in traffic.

Questioned by journalists at a briefing, a senior US military spokesperson said it would be "ghoulish" to comment on the testimony, but did not specifically deny it.

A formal statement said the two men from the 101st Airborne Division which patrols Mosul were killed just past noon in western part of the city center.

"Two soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division Air Assault were killed just past noon today in west Mosul (the main part of the city)," said the statement.

They were "shot while en route from one compound to another in the city," it said without saying they had been shot dead. *AFP*

5 US soldiers die in Afghan chopper crash

WASHINGTON—A US combat helicopter carrying troops on a nighttime mission crashed outside an American military base near the Afghan capital Kabul Sunday, killing at least five soldiers and injuring seven others in another setback for the US military.

Coming on the heels of a spate of deadly helicopter crashes in Iraq, the incident is certain to raise new questions about US military engagements overseas at a time when President George W. Bush is beginning to campaign for reelection on the merits of his war on terror.

Although no formal announcement has been made, the downed helicopter is presumably a highly classified MH-53 Pave Low, one of the largest and most technologically advanced choppers in the world, used primarily in special operations.

"It was an MH-53 transport helicopter. The personnel on board were Army and Air Force," Maj. Mike Escudie, a spokesperson for the US Central Command, said.

The only other US helicopter of the MH-53 series, the Sea Dragon, belongs to the Navy and is used in minesweeping operations.

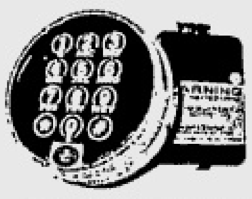
In a three-paragraph written statement, Central Command said the cause of the crash remained unknown and was under military investigation.

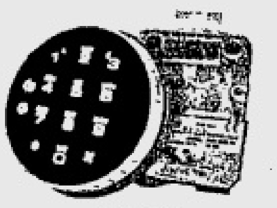
"The service members were supporting Operation Mountain Resolve," the command said without providing any further details.

But Escudie said the helicopter crashed as it was heading into the mountains from Bagram Air Base at about sunset and was destroyed on impact.

Operation Mountain Resolve was launched earlier this month in an effort to hunt down Taliban supporters and other Islamic militants in northeastern Nuristan and Kunar provinces.

One of its key goals is to deny sanctuary to remnants of the ousted Taliban regime and its al-Qaida supporters through finding and destroying weapons caches and bases presumably located in the mountainous region, defense officials said. *AFP*





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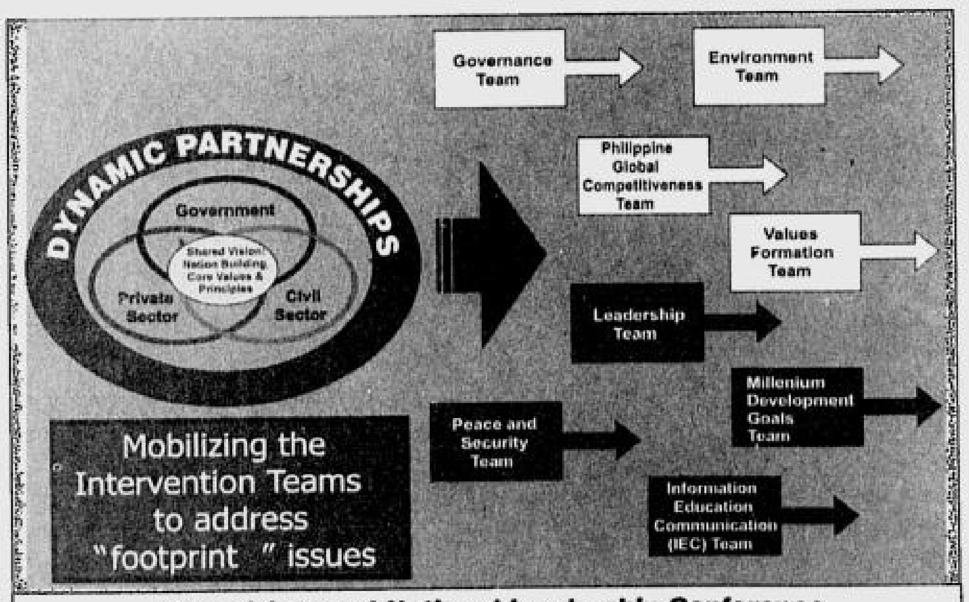
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Ms. Marissa Camacho Reyes, Association of Foundations President

DAY TWO: December 2 - Tuesday
Day One Synthesis and Preliminary Workshop
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Dr. Leonardo Garcia, Philippine Marketing Association President
Empowering the Youth: The Affected Sector... the Future Generation?
Mr. Paulo Benigno A. Aquino IV Chair, National Youth Commission
Uplifting the Hearts and Minds of the Filipinos Through Volunteerism
Ms. Erly B. De Guzman, Galing Pilipno Movement President
Winning Ways to Attract Foreign Direct Investments for Sustainable Development
Mr. Jeremy Cliff, Shell Pilipinas Exploration Managing Director
Corporate Foundations: Doing Good and Doing Well for the Common Welfare
Mr. Aniceto M. Sobrepeña, Metrobank Foundation Executive Director

DAY THREE: December 3 - Wednesday
Day Two Synthesis and Preliminary Servant Leadership Workshop
Principle-Centered Leadership Strategies Towards Good Governance
Secretary Jose D. Lina, Jr., Department of Interior and Local Government
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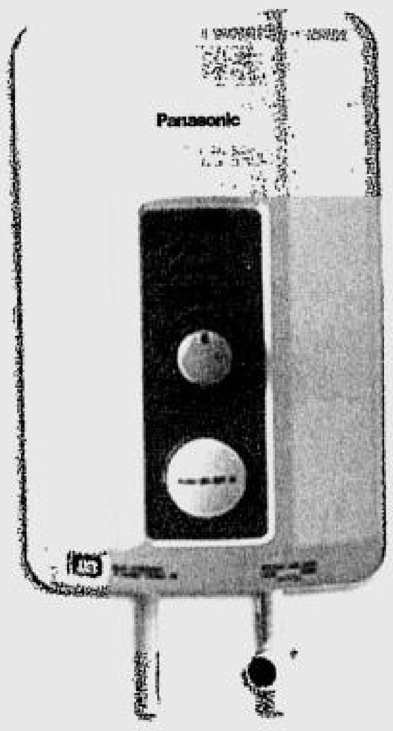

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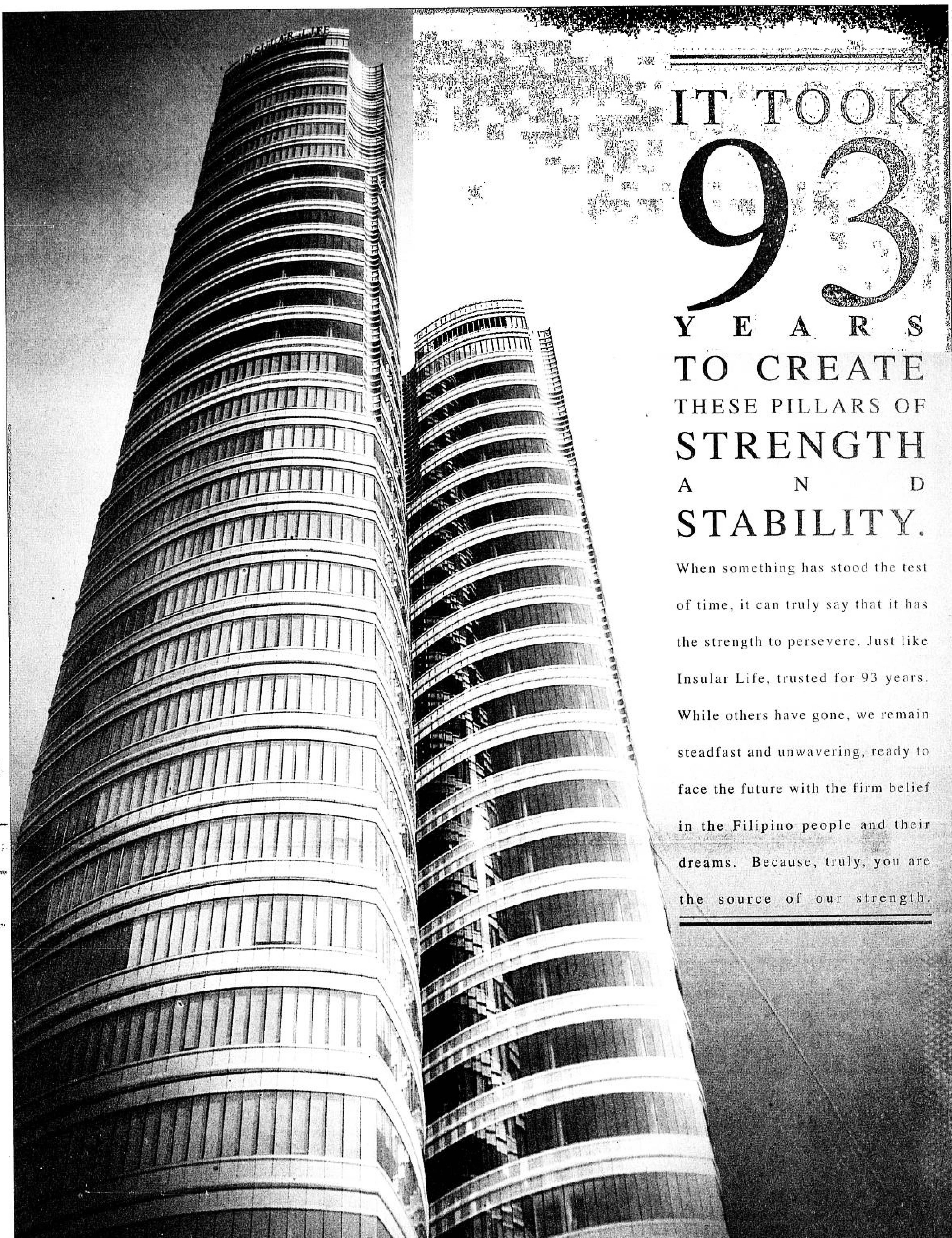

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HK votes for democracy, whips pro-Beijing party

HONG KONG—Hong Kong voters turned on the main pro-Beijing party in local elections, giving a sharp rebuke to an unpopular government and a major boost to the pro-democracy camp, results showed Monday.

The district council election on Sunday was the first opportunity to measure popular support for democracy since massive public protests rocked Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa's government in July.

However few analysts predicted the rout inflicted on the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong (DAB), which supported a controversial security bill demanded by Beijing which triggered the protests.

Democratic Party chair Yeung Sum said the results and the record turnout of nearly 45 percent sent "a clear message to Tung Chee-hwa and the Chinese government that the public wants full democracy."

The Democratic Party claimed 93 seats—compared to 86 seats in 1999—while the DAB won just 64 seats compared to 83 at the last elections. A total of 400 seats were elected, but only 326 were contested.

Pro-democracy groups have stepped up pressure on Tung to start consultations for constitutional reforms toward the goal of full democracy, which is stated under the Basic Law—the territory's mini constitution since the former British colony reverted to Chinese rule in 1997.

However, the Basic Law does not lay out a timetable for achieving full democracy. Tung, who is currently hand-picked by an 800-member committee, oversees a partially elected legislature.

Fears a proposed security bill would erode fundamental rights and freedoms, guaranteed for 50 years under the Basic Law, led 500,000 people to march against the bill on July 1 and caused its withdrawal.

Yeung said the turnout at the elections for the councils, which act as advisory bodies and have limited powers, indicated turnout for September elections for the more powerful Legislative Council would be higher.

Defeated DAB chair Tsang Yok-shing offered to resign, saying his party had suffered from fostering close ties with the government. The party is to meet next week to discuss the results and Tsang's future.

"A serious defeat reflects shortcomings and so it is only right for me to step down," said Tsang.

Tsang said he had also informed Tung of his decision to resign from the Executive Council—Tung's cabinet. *AFP*

Report: Jackson offered to send boy away

WASHINGTON—The boy accusing pop superstar Michael Jackson of molesting him is a cancer survivor whose family rejected an offer by the singer to move them to Latin America to escape news media attention, Newsweek magazine reported Sunday.

The weekly, citing sources, said the boy met Jackson through a comedy club owner who was seeking to boost his will to live.

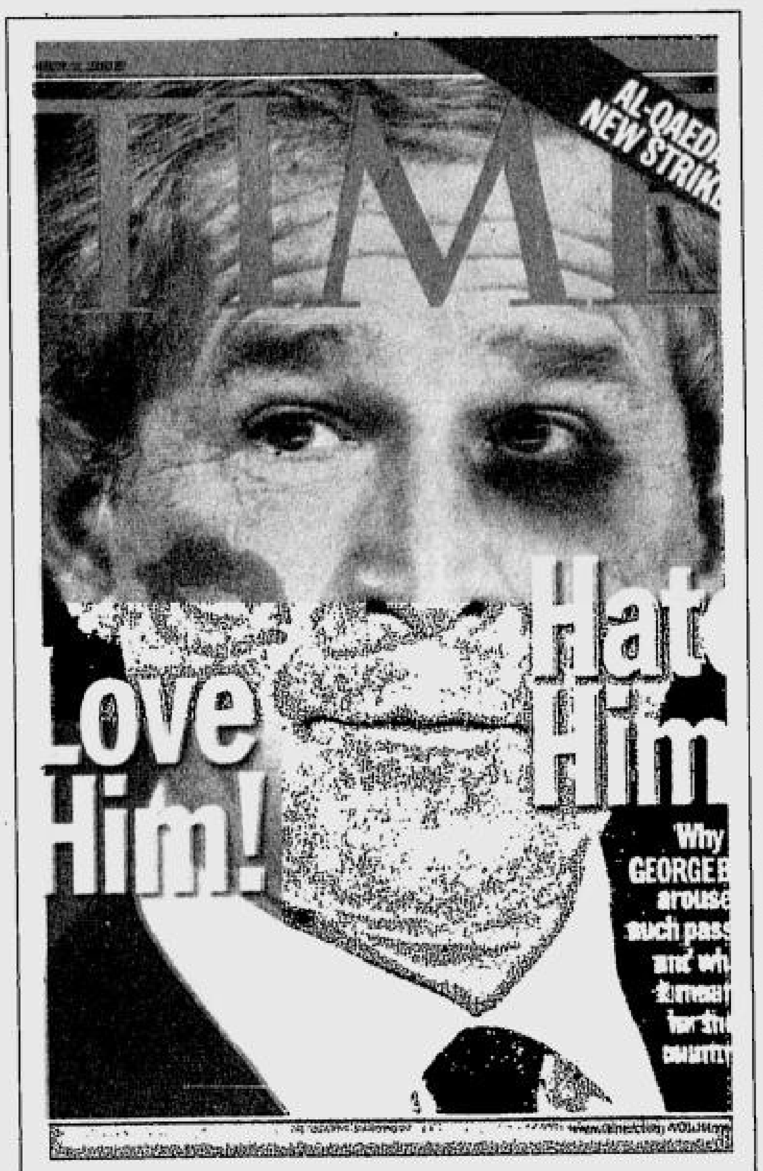
Jackson, 45, was charged with multiple counts of child molestation after the boy accused the pop singer of forcing him to have sex.

In a story set to appear on newsstands Monday, Newsweek said Jackson's friendship with the boy was first revealed in February in a British documentary in which the two appeared holding hands and talking about how the boy and his younger brother had slept in Jackson's bed.

Both Jackson and the boy insisted there was nothing sexual about these visits, and in the media firestorm that followed the broadcast, the boy's mother came forward to defend the singer.

A family friend however told Newsweek the boy's mother began pulling her family away from Jackson when his people later offered to relocate the family to Latin America to avoid the media glare.

"They were trying to shut them up," the friend told the weekly. *AFP*



EVENLY SPLIT FOR AND AGAINST
TIME's cover art portrays a photo illustration of US President George W. Bush with a lipstick-kiss on his left cheek, and a bruised right-eye for its Dec. 1 edition. A new TIME/CNN Poll shows that Americans are almost equally divided; 47 percent are likely to vote for Bush and 48 percent are not. His job approval rating of 52 percent is down from its peak of 89 percent in October 2001, and his disapproval has reached a new high of 43 percent. REUTERS

Pakistan declares Kashmir truce

ISLAMABAD—Prime Minister Zafarullah Jamali Sunday announced a unilateral ceasefire by Pakistan along the Line of Control that divides disputed Kashmir and asked India to give a positive response in the interest of peace between the two nuclear rivals.

"Our armed forces deployed on the Line of Control (LoC) have been ordered to observe a complete ceasefire with effect from Eid Day" the Muslim festival marking the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan Wednesday or Thursday, he said in a nationally televised address.

"We expect India would give a positive response because without this our action will remain incomplete."

The LoC is the de facto border dividing the Indian and Pakistani zones of Kashmir.

India had earlier rejected President Pervez Musharraf's offer of a reciprocal ceasefire in Kashmir.

The ceasefire announcement was the first major move coming directly from the civilian prime minister who critics say does not exercise full power with the president in uniform thought to be calling the shots.

Official sources said the announcement followed close consultations between Jamali and General Musharraf over the past 10 days during which they held a series of meetings on internal and external issues.

"The ceasefire stems from a consensus reached between the two leaders on dealings with India ahead of the forthcoming South Asian summit in Islamabad," said political analyst Riffat Hussain. *AFP*

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Alternative scenarios

EDITORIAL

IN A RECENT lecture at the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Prof. Felipe Miranda, one of the country's well-known pollsters and political analysts, presented four scenarios for election year 2004:

First (most preferable but least likely scenario): A new age dawns for Filipinos. Politics is given second priority; politicians, civil society, the private sector and the citizenry make a concerted effort to address the country's numerous crises; public accountability is exacted of erring government officials. Elections are held and their honesty, orderliness, peacefulness and overall credibility provide winners with the requisite legitimacy; public confidence in society's institutions and government in particular starts building up…

(The descriptions are truncated for lack of space.)

Second (likelier, preferable scenario): Much that is historical persists, but key developments activate. Election fever distracts the nation from attending to economic and political stabilization; politicking disables any attempt at decisive governance; critical sectors, in particular business, adopt a wait-and-see holding strategy and do not make the necessary investments to energize the economy.

National elections while problematic in certain instances gain provisional credibility and vest winners with sufficient legitimacy; the new administration starts serious governance initiatives to enhance peace in the country, curb criminality and improve the general environment for competitive economic activity…

Third (most likely, survivalist scenario): More of what historically has been the case continues with no new, progressive developments taking place. Election fever at its highest pitch; politicking dominates, electoral campaigns disable any responsible version of public finance management by the authorities.

Seriously flawed elections take place and no real legitimation of the "elected" officials results; a new administration is installed and after the customary "honeymoon" period with the public, starts disintegrating as a political entity…

Fourth (not altogether unlikely, fear-factor scenarios): "No-El" and military intervention; breakdown of civilian governance. The elections are aborted; the public clamors for restoration of elections; a hold-over administration tries to govern and meets open, possibly armed, public or major sectoral opposition; the military and the police are activated to restore public order; the military assumes political controller functions and martial law prevails over the republic.

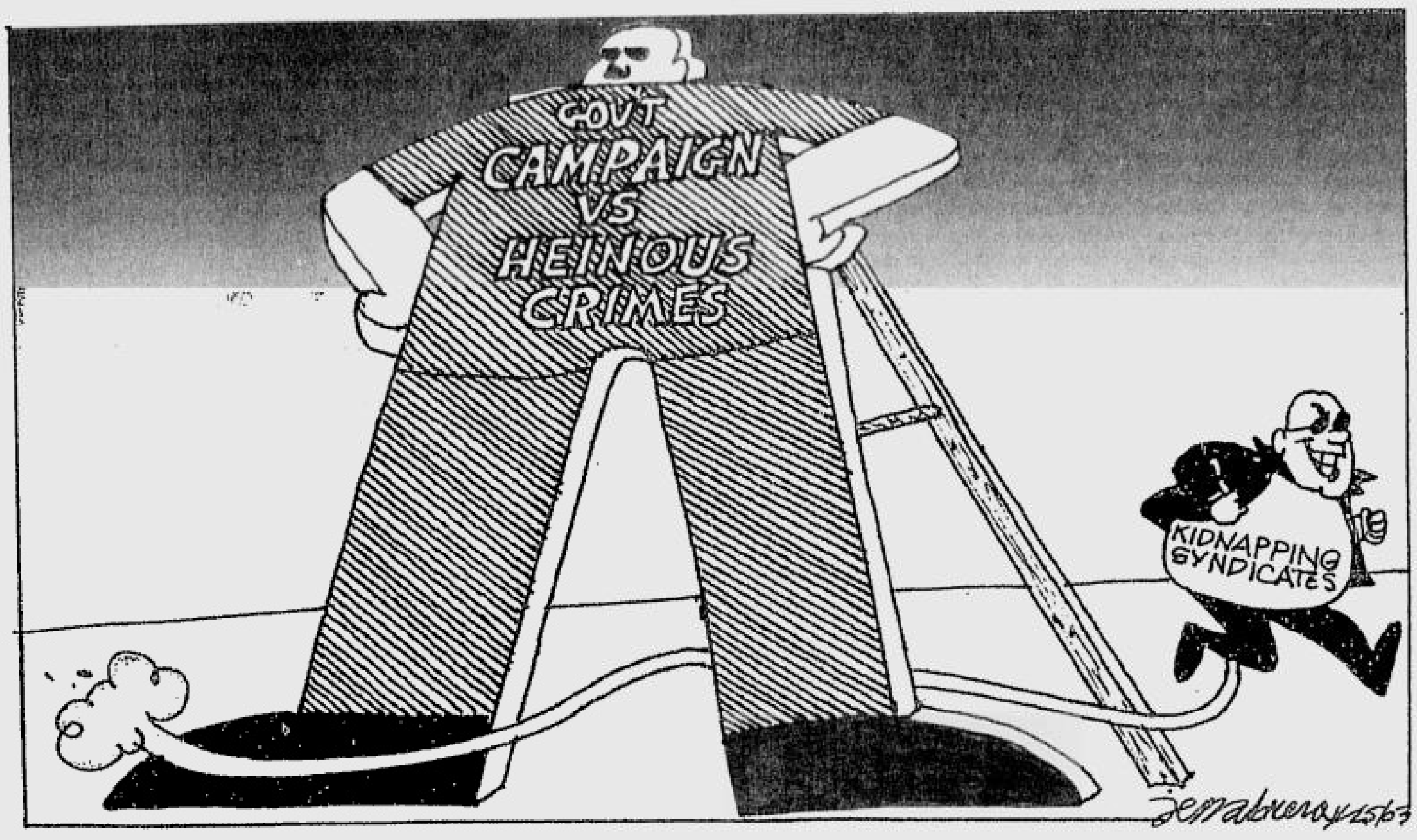
The first scenario seems almost impossible to bring about in the confused and confusing Philippine political milieu. The fourth scenario is too horrible even to contemplate. We cannot afford a repeat of martial law.

We are left with the second and third scenarios, and if history and experience are to be our guides, we will probably see a reenactment of the third. But we can, if all the members of the body politic will put their hearts and minds to it, achieve the second scenario.

Here is our wish list that we hope will help bring about the second scenario:

- We wish that the deadline for the filing of candidacies for both national and local offices would be restored to Dec. 15 from Jan. 2. A Jan. 2 deadline only prolongs the period of uncertainty, with adverse effects on the political and economic situation.
- We wish that the number of the major presidential candidates would be narrowed to only three so that one candidate can claim a clear majority, or a strong plurality in the coming elections. We do not want a repeat of the 1992 elections when Fidel V. Ramos obtained a thin 23.58 percent plurality. We would want a decisive vote to avoid the recurrence of political instability.
- We wish that the presidential candidates would avoid, or, at the very least, limit personal attacks to avoid heating up the political atmosphere.
- We wish that the Commission on Elections would do its best to ensure clean, honest and orderly elections.
- We wish that a gun ban would be enforced as early as now, to reduce to a minimum cases of campaign and election violence.
- We wish that the Executive would impress upon the military and the police that their duty is to safeguard the sanctity of the ballot and not to intervene in favor of any party or candidate.

The nation is at a crucial stage in its history. Many political disturbances and disruptions have taken place in the past two and a half years. We cannot afford to have seriously flawed elections taking place next year. They would be the last nail in the coffin of a suffering, seriously troubled country.



Nine US presidents didn't finish college

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE MAIN issue the elitists have against Fernando Poe Jr. as a presidential candidate is that he is a high school dropout. So what? The Constitution does not require the President to be a college graduate, or even a high school or kindergarten graduate. Nine American presidents never went to college, including such great presidents as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, (although Lincoln was accepted to the bar and practiced law, he was largely self-taught) and even the 20th century president who won the war against Japan, Harry S. Truman. The others are Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, Zachary Taylor, Millard Fillmore and Grover Cleveland. In fact, the 17th president of the United States, Andrew Johnson, never went to school at all. His wife taught him to read and write.

Another issue against FPJ is that he is a movie actor. Again, so what? Ronald Reagan, the 40th president, was also a movie actor, a not so good one at that. (His roles were usually as a sidekick to that dashing hero Errol Flynn.) But Reagan turned out to be one of the better American presidents.

It was Reagan who turned around the ailing American economy (and made "Reaganomics" an economic byword), the same thing that is ailing the Philippines now. He forged a bipartisan coalition in Congress which led to the enactment of an economic program which included the largest budget and tax cuts in US history, and a social security reform bill designed to ensure the long-term solvency of the system. (Are not budget deficits, high taxes, and dwindling SSS and GSIS funds our problems now?) As Reagan left office after two terms, the United States was experiencing the sixth consecutive year of economic prosperity, low unemployment, low energy costs and a low inflation rate. A movie actor whom they laughed at when he announced he was running for president did all that.

High unemployment, high energy costs and high inflation have been plaguing us for years. A succession of college graduates, lawyers, generals and economists have been unable to solve them. Maybe a movie actor like Reagan is what we need.

Ramon Magsaysay was belittled as a mere "former mechanic" when he ran for president, and Corazon Aquino belittled as a "mere housewife." But these two remain as the most beloved and respected of our presidents. Magsaysay, a "mere mechanic," broke the back of a festering rebellion, but a succession of college graduates, including a general, couldn't win the war against the present insurgents and, in fact, worsened the rebellion and discontent. Cory Aquino, a "mere housewife," gave us back our freedom but the college graduates who succeeded her are slowly taking it away from us again.

On the other hand, the most hated president who plunged the country into its darkest history was a lawyer with a brilliant academic record. That was Marcos, who brought kleptocracy to monstrous proportions and prompted Congress to enact a law against plunder.

But look at Erap, the elitists say, also a popular movie actor, the first president to be impeached and the first to face charges of plunder.

Let us look at the facts. Erap is not accused of stealing a single peso from the government. He was impeached and is facing plunder charges for allegedly accepting money from gambling lords and for hiding that money in a secret bank account under a fictitious name: Jose Velarde. What he did, if true, is a crime and makes him unworthy of being president.

But isn't stealing from the people a worse crime? Being so clever and devious as to escape detection does not make the crime any less. Continuing to do it while the people suffer makes it worse. Doing it because many of his fellow officials are also doing it makes the criminal feel less sinful, but it makes the crime much worse. Then there is a conspiracy to rob the people. It is no longer just a solitary thief stealing the people's money but a whole gang. It's no different from kidnapping syndicates or drug syndicates or squatting syndicates, except that their members wear expensive suits, ride in luxury limousines, live in big houses and are addressed as "honorable." But they also have secret bank accounts under fictitious names.

Erap's greatest sin is being a movie actor looked down upon by the elitists, by the college graduates in civil society. It is no different from the peasants being looked down upon by the aristocrats not so long ago. And that is also the sin they are pinning on FPJ: he is only a movie actor not worthy to be president of the nation. He is not a member of the elite.

But a good president does not have to be a member of the elite. He does not have to be a college graduate (there are millions of college graduates who are failures) or even a high school graduate. He only has to have common sense and sincerity and willingness to serve the people. We extol unschooled people who succeed in business, why not those who try to succeed in governance? FPJ succeeded in turning a movie production outfit into one of the most prosperous in the industry. Maybe he can do the same thing with our government. God knows so many others with impeccable academic credentials failed. We have had so many traditional politicians the people are already tired and distrustful of them. It's time we tried somebody else.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: I went to a fortune teller in Quiapo and asked who would be the next Philippine president. She looked at her cards and said the next President's name would begin with a "P."

So will it be either Panfilo or Ping (Lacson), Panday (FPJ), Pandak (GMA), Pacman (Cojuangco), or Pakindat-kindat (Roco)?

Back to square one

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IN FAIRNESS to Jaime Cardinal Sin, he did **not** say "politics is RP scourge," as our headline in the Second Front Page said last Saturday. He said, "Politics without Christ is the greatest scourge of our nation." And further on: "Among all areas of Filipino life, it is politics that needs most the saving presence of Christ."

There is a difference. I know that because other people **have** said that politics, or "too much politics," is the bane of the nation. Often, indeed, various princes of the Church, including Sin himself. The new archbishop of Manila, Gaudencio Rosales, said something to that effect only last week. I know that too because someone asked me that question in La Salle, where I spoke last Friday (along with Robert Barbers, Oscar Orbos and Noynoy Aquino) on, what else, politics. Someone read a statement by Rosales that said too much politics was ruining our country, and asked what I thought of it.

I replied that my problem with people who say that, and demand a truce on politics, is that they imagine they are not themselves responsible for it. They imagine they are not themselves to blame for what they are complaining about. When they say we should stop politicking, they really mean **other** people should stop politicking, not them.

That was GMA's message to the nation the first time she delivered her State of the Nation Address. She called on everyone to stop bickering, think of the nation before self and put his shoulder to the wheel. There was only one problem: She herself wasn't thinking of nation before self, she wasn't making any personal sacrifice, she wasn't putting her shoulder to the wheel. What she was doing was campaigning all over the place.

That was what was causing the bickering to begin with. Everybody knew she would run. She wore her ambition on her sleeve, showing only a desire to stay on in the big house by the Pasig where she was given three years free board and lodging by Edsa II. What she meant by declaring a truce on politics was that everybody else should stop campaigning, except her. Pleas like those naturally fall on deaf ears.

"Too much politics" is also the restive military officers' complaint. They've turned the politician into Public Enemy No. 1, depicting him as the prime source of corruption and instability in the country. They forget what they did during martial law. In fact, they forget what they did in the late 1980s, when they mounted one coup after another against Cory, and what they did recently, which was to launch a mutiny against GMA, and threaten some more. What is a military mutiny, or a coup, but politics in its most primitive form, which is the wielding of the club?

"Too much politics" is the business community's complaint. That's what the Philippine Chamber of Commerce said on two occasions over the last couple of months. The first was during the Jose Pidal exposé and the second was during Congress' effort to impeach Hilario Davide. Quite apart from that, it has been saying it, like a mantra, throughout the years. That presumes the business community itself is not playing politics.

But if you read Alfred McKoy's excellent collection of essays in the book "An Anarchy of Families," you'll know that the politics of this country is an extension of its economics which is an extension of its family. Or put more succinctly, the politics of this country is determined by a few families who invest in candidates (if their members do not run themselves) to defend or extend their economic interests. The business community was among the first to embrace Marcos' martial law because it is easier to do business in a country where someone thumps an iron fist—at the very least, you can more easily deal with troublesome workers who are so ungrateful you have given them work they also demand pay. And a lot of big businessmen, if not the business community itself, invested in Erap, and will probably invest in FPJ if he runs.

That brings us to the Catholic Church. Well, any Filipino who has read his history and is resolved not to repeat it—or its unsavory parts, which are what we keep getting again and again—will know that the Church more than the government has been at the heart of Philippine politics from when Spanish rule began. Indeed, religious officials more than secular ones—secular officials, from governor generals to presidents, serving only brief tenures while religious officials serve for life. Cardinal Sin himself has seen a succession of presidents, and he remains Cardinal Sin, even in retirement.

What are Edsa I and II but politics? What is the Church's violent opposition to family planning, movies like "Live Show," and the "tabloidism" of media but politics? What is Bishop Socrates Villegas' fulmination against the unshod and unkempt who invaded the Edsa Shrine as unfit to tread on its ground but politics? What is Cardinal Sin's advice some months ago for GMA to reconsider her vow not to run again but politics? What is the Catholic Church's complaint about this country reeling from too much politics but politics?

You define politics as the organization of power to achieve certain ends, and you realize that our life is governed by politics. Or should be. Our problem clearly is not politics but what kind of politics to have. Cardinal Sin is right about that. He himself suggests a politics that has Christ at the center of things, or a politics that has the saving presence of Christ. That is all very well, but what exactly does that mean? The problem is that Cardinal Sin often has a way of thinking we need a politics that has him at the center of things, a politics that has him as saving presence. Which means everybody else should stop what they are doing, except him.

Back to square one.

NPC likely to back different presidential candidates

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WITH NATIONALIST People's Coalition founder Eduardo M. Cojuangco out of the running in the presidential race, the question is, whither the NPC? Sources say this question will be resolved on Dec. 6 during a party caucus, but this early, the likelihood is that the NPC will end up giving individual members the freedom to support the presidential candidate of his preference. Thus, there will be NPC members such as Manila's Rep. Harry Angping who will support FPJ, while others will doubtless end up going for Raul Roco or Sen. Panfilo Lacson. But from indications, more NPC members will go for President Macapagal-Arroyo. House reports indicate that a number of congressmen present at the recent reconciliation lunch in Malacañang already pledged their support to GMA. Among them were Representatives Marcelino Libanan of Eastern Samar, Douglas Cagas of Davao del Sur, Cirilo Badelles of Lanao del Norte, Gregorio Ipong of North Cotabato, Tomas Dumpit of La Union and Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan.

* * *

I asked Senate President Franklin Drilon why he has decided to be sworn into the Liberal Party this Friday, which also coincides with his 58th birthday. Drilon quit the LDP in late 2000 over the Estrada impeachment, and in 2001 he ran as an independent under the People Power Coalition, but until this Friday he had been without a party. He said he feels "comfortable" with LP leaders, such as party president Florencio Abad, Mayor Lito Atienza of Manila and Tarlac Rep. Benigno Aquino III. Moreover, said the Senate chief, Region 6 of which he is acknowledged as the dominant leader, has been a longtime LP stronghold, with such leaders as Iloilo Gov. Neil Tupas, Judy Araneta-Roxas and Antique Gov. Salvacion Perez. In fact, says Drilon, "in Region 6 *kalaban namin puro* Lakas." The Senate chief is quiet a catch for the LP even though there will only be two LPs in the Senate (with Sen. Francis Pangilinan).

* * *

Speaking of Noynoy Aquino, his uncle, Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino, was quoted as saying he would try to convince him to go for presidential candidate Lacson so that the entire Aquino clan would be united in its preference. The latest rumored to be thinking about campaigning for Lacson is actress Kris Aquino. But I think Butz will have to wait forever, because I cannot see Noynoy ever going for Lacson, given his past record. I have had a number of conversations with Noynoy on many issues and he has been quite clear-headed, e.g., voting for the impeachment of Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco and against that of Chief Justice Hilario Davide. If Ninoy were around today he would be very proud of his son, but perhaps terribly ashamed of his politician-siblings.

* * *

Last Friday's raid on a shabu factory in Antipolo which yielded what's considered as the biggest drug haul of more than 1,000 kilos of shabu worth at least P2.1 billion was nothing less than spectacular. The raid on the "very sophisticated" shabu factory was described by a very pleased President Macapagal as a "very, very big bust." One US Drug Enforcement Agency official said the huge haul was something he had never seen before. Think of how many youths' lives would have been wrecked by that huge haul.

The Antipolo raid was only the latest in a long string of spectacular successes of the government's Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Task Force (AID SOTF), headed by PNP Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay. About two weeks ago, AID SOTF, together with the Bureau of Immigration, raided and dismantled another clandestine drug warehouse in Valenzuela, Bulacan, operated by Chinese nationals and seized about P1 billion worth of shabu.

It will be recalled that last July a drug bust in Cavite was already hailed as the biggest then. *Wala kayang katapusan ito?* It seems that despite the intensive efforts of several agencies, it will take a while before the drug menace is contained, but the good thing is that Aglipay and his men are doing everything they can not just to dismantle factories but also to prosecute erring policemen who are in cahoots with the drug people.

* * *

In a recent chat with Aglipay, he told me that 246 administrative cases and an equal number of criminal cases have been filed against erring lawmen. In compliance with GMA's order to bring the anti-drug campaign down to the barangay level throughout the country, AID SOTF has exceeded its target of 500 affected barangays and has actually been able to clear 2,444 barangays, and arrested 14,266 drug personalities, with 8,847 cases filed before the courts. But Aglipay said one problem is the lack of judges and prosecutors to handle drug-related cases. With the courts clogged by cases, government operatives are tied up in so many court duties, preventing them from participating in police operations. Perhaps Chief Justice Davide and Court Administrator Presbiterio Velasco Jr. could help in this regard. I hope that the recent increase in salaries of judges and justices will make serving in the bench more attractive to good lawyers.

* * *

Aglipay stressed that the successful crackdown on shabu factories came after nearly a month of intensive casing and surveillance in each case. In fighting crime, be it kidnapping or drug trafficking, so much really depends on intelligence work, which cannot be finished overnight. Moreover, fighting the drug menace needs the cooperation of all institutions of society, beginning with the home and the school.

A state of fear

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

MY niece Charm was supposed to drop by our home Sunday afternoon with some of her classmates in her Industrial Design course because we had hired their group to produce the accessories for an upcoming family affair. But that morning, Charm's mother, my sister Joni, called to say that Charm and her friends might not be able to make it because they were in the UST hospital looking after a classmate of theirs.

The story she told was chilling. The boy had been held up and stabbed seven times early that morning on his way to ROTC. Apparently, he had put up a fight for his cell phone and was stabbed repeatedly for his efforts. Still, even while already bleeding profusely, he managed to make his way to the UST campus where the guards called for a vehicle to rush him to the hospital.

Charm and her friends did manage to make their appointment, showing up past 5 p.m. and full of stories about their friend's brush with criminal elements, as well as their own.

For starters, all four of them—three young men and Charm—have had encounters with petty thieves and street criminals. One already had three such confrontations, and had even survived a hold-up where the criminal held a cocked gun to his chin.

Some months ago, Charm was in a taxi cab on the way to school but when they passed by UST, the driver refused to stop so she could get down. In exchange for letting her go, the driver said, she would have to pay him P2,000—a far more exorbitant amount than that registered on his meter. My niece begged and pleaded with the driver, arguing that she didn't have that kind of money with her. She searched all her bags, purses and pockets and finally came up with over P200, which amount the driver finally deemed acceptable.

He let her down near Quiapo, and in her shaken, shivering state, had to walk the distance to UST.

* * *

THE FIRST thing that entered my mind, when told this story, was how "lucky" Charm had been to have been let go. I shuddered at the thought of the "what-could-have-beens," even as I gnashed my teeth at the perfidy of that driver. (Unfortunately, Charm failed to take down the taxi cab's name and license plate number.)

But what seems even more shocking than the story of Charm's ordeal is that it wasn't even the first time I'd heard of such an incident. A friend of mine, with three college-age children, has an entire repertoire of tales about her children's close brushes with disaster, from being groped inside FX taxi's to being stabbed in the thigh by cell phone snatchers, to being abducted outside a bank with a female classmate then being forced to board a waiting car, where "fortunately" the criminals were interested only in their money, letting them down a few blocks away.

* * *

I USE these stories to bolster my side in arguments with my own daughter, who as a senior high school student is chafing under the "*hatid-sundo*" regimen she's in. See how unsafe commuting can be? I tell her, dragging out yet another story from my growing collection, culled from the experiences of my friends and relatives.

But I know I am only postponing the inevitable. My daughter will have to sooner or later learn to navigate her way through the dangerous streets of Manila, which is in itself a rite of passage. I can only hope that by the time she's commuting, the city's streets will be safe and secure. Dream on—I know.

* * *

THE EXPERIENCES of my niece and her friends—who are only in their second year of college, mind—may constitute mere anecdotal evidence of the growing sense of perpetual unease among our citizens. But I know their personal experiences are borne out by statistics. An extraordinarily high percentage of respondents in national public opinion surveys report having had personal encounters with criminals.

The media may headline sensational crimes like the kidnap-slay of Coca-Cola executive Betti Sy or the kidnapping of 10-year-old Gelica Dy, or even the growing terrorist threat. But as far as the ordinary Filipinos are concerned, it's the constant, nagging and personal threat of petty crime and street violence that really wears them down. When parents cannot sleep on weekend party nights for fear their children might have been kidnapped, held-up or God-knows-what-other-horror-has-befallen-them, society as a whole is threatened and destabilized.

* * *

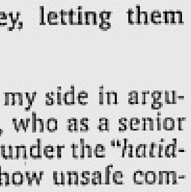
I MUST disagree, though, with anti-crime advocates who seem to believe the application of the death penalty is enough deterrence to criminals.

It's a cliché of law enforcement that it's not the severity of punishment that deters criminal activity but rather the certainty of apprehension and prosecution. Still, it's true. A lethal injection is a long distance away for the criminal. What concerns him is whether the police are capable of catching him, are determined to arrest him, and will not compromise when time comes to convict him.

When snatchers and hold-up men can operate with impunity around campuses, preying repeatedly on helpless students, we can only conclude that their activities are being tolerated—if not encouraged—by authorities. It's this suspicion—and fear—that eats away at the contract of trust between state and citizen. It's what convinces young people like my niece and her friends that it's a jungle out there, and ordinary people like them can count on no one for protection.

Inevitably this also leads to anarchy, for when it's every person for himself and herself, then no rules apply and no loyalties, not even to country, matter.

Supreme delights



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

AS they say, better late than never. The following information is somewhat behind schedule but always useful. It comes to you courtesy of a niece, Evic, who lives in New Jersey and is apparently as fond of trivia as her aunt. In these times, it seems to me we need not heavy reading but some lighter stuff. But for those of you who prefer weightier subjects, no doubt there are many to choose from in the press. Unfortunately that kind of news may develop an urge to "slice their heads off," as Virginia Woolf so delicately put it. "Sense and Sensibility" and Slicing Off Heads.

"On this day (Oct. 30) in 1811 Jane Austen's first novel, 'Sense and Sensibility,' was published. Early reviewers found it to be 'a genteel, well-written novel' as far as 'domestic literature' went, and 'just long enough to interest without fatiguing.' Virginia Woolf would take a different view: 'Sometimes it seems as if her creatures were born merely to give Jane Austen the supreme delight of slicing their heads off.' (Think of so many of our public figures...oops).

"Today is All Hallows Eve, or Halloween. The modern holiday comes from an age-old tradition honoring the supernatural blending of the world of the living and the world of the dead. Halloween is based on a Celtic holiday called Samhain. The festival marked the start of winter and the last stage of the harvest, the slaughtering of animals. It was believed that the dark of winter allowed the spirits of the dead to transgress the borders of death and haunt the living.

"Eventually, Christian holidays developed at around the same time. During the Middle Ages, Nov. 1 became known as All Saints' Day, or All Hallows' Day. The holiday honored all of the Christian saints and martyrs. Medieval religion taught that dead saints regularly intervened in the affairs of the living. On All Saints' Day, churches held Masses for the dead and put bones of the saints on display. The night before this celebration of the holy dead became known as All Hallows' Eve. People baked soul cakes, which they would set outside their house for the poor... and set out lanterns carved out of turnips to keep the ghosts of the dead away. Pumpkins did not grow in Europe and so did not become a part of Halloween until after Columbus discovered the New World.

"Usage 1: Today's word is a shortening of Allhallowmas Even (evening), the vigil of All Saints' Day (Nov. 1), the day on which all the saints are honored. However, the celebration originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain [*so-win*] held on the last day of the Celtic calendar to celebrate the end of summer and beginning of winter, the season of death. The Celts believed that on that night, the line between the living and the dead evaporated and the spirits of the dead returned to mingle with those of the living.

"Suggested Usage: When the Catholic Church came to England, it attempted to pre-empt the pagan celebration with its own and chose the day of Samhain as the vigil for their celebration of all the saints. The results were the odd combination of the profane and sacred we now celebrate on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. The pumpkin lantern (jack-o'-lantern) was originally a turnip lantern placed in windows on Halloween to scare away the spirits of the dead that were supposed to wander about that night. The costumes of today's children descend from the days when kids dressed up like those spirits (e.g. the skeleton costumes) to take advantage of the beliefs of their elders for amusement."

Etymology: "Hallow" comes from Middle English "halwen," the descendant of Old English "halgian." It derives from the same source as "hale" as in "hale and hearty," the somewhat dated greeting, "Hail!" both of which are cousins of "heal," the root of "health." "Holy," too, belongs to the expanded family. In German and Dutch it emerges as *heilig* "holy" as well as *heil* "health, salvation" in German, a term used in the unholy salutes, "*Heil Hitler!*" and "*Sieg Heil!*" (Hail Victory!) during the Second World War.

Now that you're all smarter by half, I'm almost ready to say "Class dismissed," but there's still time to remind you that Christmas too (Dec. 25) was part of that pagan tradition.

It seems that the concept of Christmas originated in ancient Egypt in the days of King Osiris and Queen Isis around about 3,000 B.C.—long before the Christian faith was established. When King Osiris died, Queen Isis propagated the idea of his survival as an evergreen tree that sprang from a dead stump, i.e., new life from dying. On each anniversary of Osiris' birth, which was the date we now know as Dec. 25, Isis would leave gifts around this tree.

Isis became the "Queen of Heaven," and Osiris became the re-born "divine son of heaven." Osiris later became, through the later Phoenicans, Baal the Sun God. The "mother and child" became chief objects of worship by the Babylonians, from which it spread over the world under various names.

The "Mother and Child" concept became popular in the fourth and fifth centuries in Rome, especially around Christmas time.

It would be interesting to discover how many Filipino customs date back to pre-Hispanic times.

Big task for Manila's new archbishop

YOUNG BLOOD

Zandro G. Rapadas

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

AS I write this, new Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales is being installed at the Manila Cathedral. I should have been there to witness this historic event, but for some personal opinion about how the proceedings would be done (same old local hierarchical and elitist celebration), I opted to greet Archbishop "Dency" with my own perspective of the local Church that he will shepherd.

Yes, he is indeed a shepherd in its true sense, and I personally saw that when he granted Rogate Ergo Philippines an exclusive interview at his Lipa residence last Oct. 16, two days after he had his first meeting with the local press. In that engaging meet, I saw him more than once in a prayerful mood, holding his pectoral cross tightly whenever the conversation dwelt on very sensitive matters like a relevant clergy formation, Church renewal and the plight of the poor. His thoughts on these issues, I felt, were borne out of a genuine and sincere concern and love for his people.

But pure and fatherly as he is, Archbishop Dency is still anxious at the thought of shepherding the Archdiocese of Manila because of the enormity of its problems, political and economic especially.

"It is more with fear that I approach this new task, which the Church has given me," he said in an interview with the Union of Catholic Asian News a few days after he received his appointment. "I am told the archdiocese has more poor people than middle class. So, what causes anxiety is that I'm going to be pastor and shepherd to people who are also very poor. A lot are hardly surviving, a good number are in squatter districts and some live under bridges along the canals. That's what I mean when I speak of fear."

He also noted out in that interview "the instability of life caused by economic dislocation and the insecurity of the civilian government because of people calling the shots on how things should be done in the country, professional politicians, some of whom are completely distanced from the poor and think only of how to survive in a political quagmire."

In fact, when we asked Archbishop Dency why there is still so much poverty and suffering in the Philippines despite the postwar "Asian economic miracle" and the declaration of the local Church in the Philippines (in PCP II) 11 years ago to become a "Church of the Poor," he said it is because we are too highly politicized.

"I am very sorry to say that the way politics is exercised in the Philippines by Filipinos has been most destructive and made so many people poorer by every election. Is there a politics of poverty? Probably by the way the poor are being taken advantage of. Is there poverty in politics? I do not know, maybe in values. That is what I mean. We have been highly politicized and that is why the poor get poorer and maybe the rich are becoming more powerful."

But I think this political quagmire exists not only among government officials and politicians, but also in the local Catholic Church. This, Archbishop Dency affirmed when we asked him if the Philippine Church has truly become the Church of the poor. His complete reply to this question was:

"Yes and no. Yes on paper, no in reality. I am sorry to say that, but that is the way I perceive it. I could be wrong; then I will apologize. But on the yes part, it is really not completely on paper. There are some churches that have really made great progress in including the poor within the Church. The beautiful thing that happened in PCP II is that at least it awakened all of us, and I thank God for that.

"However, in actuality, by and large, the local Church is not yet a Church of the poor. Have we really reached out to the poor as a Church? Have we made them part of our decision-making, at least part of a concerned group that will tell us what they want? Have we reached out with projects of compassion, righteousness, love and goodness that will not only make them recipients but part of this movement? Are they just receivers? Are they just passive acceptors or beneficiaries? Can they chip in a little of what they have? Is there goodwill between authorities and the poor? See, things like that could be asked. Or have we left them always as victims of the powerful? To all these questions, I am afraid the answer is not yet—not fully yet, not even one-half yet in many areas. We will have to address that."

That is the big task now. And I, along with other Church activists who envision and struggle for authentic Church renewal, will be praying hard, especially in the next few weeks and months when our new pastor goes about his administration of Manila. I make this unsolicited yet sincere advice now to our new and beloved pastor, Archbishop Dency:

I know you intend to create your vision for the Archdiocese of Manila with and through the local faithful, as you told us. And I was edified to read in the INQUIRER (last Nov. 21) that on your moving to the local archdiocesan residence, you just requested for enough space for you and your dog, and a small bed and fax machine in your room. That is touching. It brought back the feeling I had when I first visited your simple residence in Lipa. Thank you for being such an edifying new pastor. I think that is what the Archdiocese of Manila needs now: an inspired and inspiring pastor—*'yung totoo talaga*.

If I may just ask for a Christmas gift, I would request that you put in your new administration a new breed of ministers, administrators and collaborators who would really work for initiatives that are really for the poor, the least and the lost; those who would sincerely reach out to them with projects of compassion, righteousness, love and goodness—projects that would not only make them recipients but active participants in Church renewal.

If the local Church is still far from being authentically and sincerely a Church of the poor, and therefore a Church where God's Kingdom is truly manifest, is it probably because of the people who have administered it? If I am wrong, then I would say I am sorry.

But Archbishop Dency, if you must lead the Archdiocese of Manila toward a more humane, just and authentic witnessing of the Gospel values by faith that does justice, then I think the first big task at hand is how to get rid of the other "dogs." We only have enough for Ever, your cute canine friend. The rest will have to go. Bishop Dency, welcome to a challenged archdiocese.

Zandro G. Rapadas, 28, is editorial assistant of Rogate Ergo Philippines and media liaison of the Catholic Mass Media Awards.

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LETTERS

Telling a 'kutsero' off

RAQUEL Fajardo's letter about animal cruelty ("Unconscionable cruelty to a horse," PDI, 10/18/03) caught my attention because I found myself in the same situation in Binondo sometime ago. But I did not stand by and watch like Fajardo did.

I got out of my car and approached the "*kutsero*" who was mercilessly beating his fallen horse. "Stop that!" I loudly said, "Or I'll report you to the SPCA and the law." My angry voice must have convinced him that I meant business. The *kutsero* explained that he had to pick up passengers waiting downtown. "That's how I earn my living."

In the meantime, the poor horse was lying prone, frothing in the mouth. "He's dying of thirst," I said. "Why don't you ask for some water from the church?" He went in and came back with a can of water. The horse raised its head and finished it all. He offered a second can and the thirsty animal drank it all again. He was back on his feet right after.

"That horse earns money for you. You'll not have food on your table if he dies, so take care of him," I then told the man. Our driver was surprised to see the *kutsero* so cooperative. "You're lucky ma'am, that he's not *bastos*," he said.

That's when I learned that we have to risk negative reaction sometimes when correcting unfair practices. You could save a life doing that.

—ROSE L. SOBREPEÑA,
Manila

Mail was faster than complaint

REFERENCE is made to the letter-complaint of Edenlei T. Baria on Nov. 5, 2003 titled, "Very slow or lost mail."

Our initial reaction was to check with the Parañaque Central Post Office regarding the location of her parcel from England, supposedly mailed on Sept. 22, 2003.

According to postal inspector Raul Marasigan, the parcel arrived on Oct. 10 at the Parañaque City Central Post Office. Since there were no deliveries on weekends, the post office instead delivered the parcel on Tuesday, Oct. 14.

Baria already got hold of the package by the time the INQUIRER published the letter-complaint on Nov. 5.

Thank you for bringing the matter to our attention.

—ALVIN E. FIDELSON,
public information officer,
Philippine Postal Corp.,
3/F Central Office Building,
Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila

Getting tough on kidnapping

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I AGREE it's time to get serious, get tough on kidnapping. I write as a Chinoy (Chinese-Filipino), overwhelmed too and close to despair, with the new wave of kidnappings and the death of Betti Sy.

I agree that what's needed is a strong state, but will quickly qualify this is different from the rhetorical strong republic the President talks about. And I will suggest, in addition to all this, that civil society, especially the Chinoy community itself, needs to act.

A lot of what's being said about kidnapping reduces it to a problem of criminal syndicates. Given that analysis, it's not surprising people look for solutions in terms of a tougher anti-crime campaign, from the execution of kidnappers to tighter security precautions by Chinoys, arming themselves to the teeth and hiring more bodyguards, for example.

But what has this done? The government last week conducted several raids, killing several alleged kidnappers, including one of the top syndicate bosses. But this new get-tough show isn't about to bring the syndicates to their knees. In fact, the kidnappings continue unabated.

I propose we expand our analysis to look at kidnapping as a very serious sign of a weak state, and by weak here I do not mean "soft" law-enforcement policies, such as the non-implementation of the death penalty. I mean an ineffective state, rendered impotent because of corruption and in-fighting.

Deep down, the Chinoys do know the problem is a weak state. They wonder if the Chinoy community isn't just being caught in the latest crossfire among politicians, of anti-GMA forces trying to show her government is weaker than it already is. An alternative view is that the kidnappings are being staged by pro-GMA forces themselves. After all, her war-on-terror scripts have become more and more irrelevant, so maybe it's time to create domestic terror and, when the right time comes, to have her prove her mettle as the Iron Lady.

"*Bitayin ang mga kidnappers!*" the placards read at Sy's funeral yesterday. But the police are, in fact, executing the kidnappers, usually at the time of arrests. The response from both Chinoy and non-Chinoy Filipinos has been cynicism and paranoia. Were they really kidnappers, or were they fall guys? If they were in fact the kidnappers, was it possible they were rubbed out immediately so they wouldn't spill the beans on who their bosses are?

There are far too many horror stories from Chinoy kidnapping victims, about entering a police station or a military camp and recognizing their kidnappers, this time in uniform. "Law enforcers," experts in extorting bribes and protection money from citizens, now see greater windfalls through kidnapping for ransom.

I will reiterate: We are not talking about building a strong republic, as GMA proposes. Her vision is of strengthening a system that's already rotten to the core, creating more bureaucracies and procedures which will in fact open new opportunities for more horrendous forms of extortion, more kidnapping for ransom. Remember, for example, the proposal to arm barangay officials? That was a classic example of a ridiculous "strong republic" vision, tantamount to arming the petty thieves to protect the public. From whom, I will ask, from the thieves' own bosses?

We need a strong state that doesn't play games, that doesn't play with more lives. Being "strong" means being consistent in applying the law, rather than the occasional staged raid and execution.

I did want to comment as well on what the Chinoy community itself needs to do. Mainly, we need to address the racial undertones to this kidnapping. We have to ask why the Chinoys are being targeted, "favored" over, say, the Americans.

The answer may lie in a rather paradoxical situation. On one hand, precisely because the Chinoy has become Filipino, there is much greater interaction with mainstream Filipino society. On the other hand, there is still a tense distancing, a sense of "*tayo*" and "*sila*" on both sides, sometimes sharpened by the visible Chinatowns, Chinese schools, Chinese newspapers, Chinese temples. Note that these institutions are not "bad" in themselves; I favor their retention because of their contributions to cultural diversity.

The problem is that these "Intsik" institutions stand out in an economic context, of perceptions that all Chinese are wealthy, and that the wealth comes from political cronyism.

It does not help that there is so much conspicuous consumption as well, from the lavish lauriats to Chinoy schoolchildren toting P20,000-cell phones. To use the Tagalog expression, *umiinit ang mga mata*, observers' eyes become "hot." I wouldn't call it envy. I wonder at times how a bodyguard feels, risking his own life and limb to protect a Chinoy kid with an allowance several times his salary. The temptations to cooperate in an inside job are not surprising.

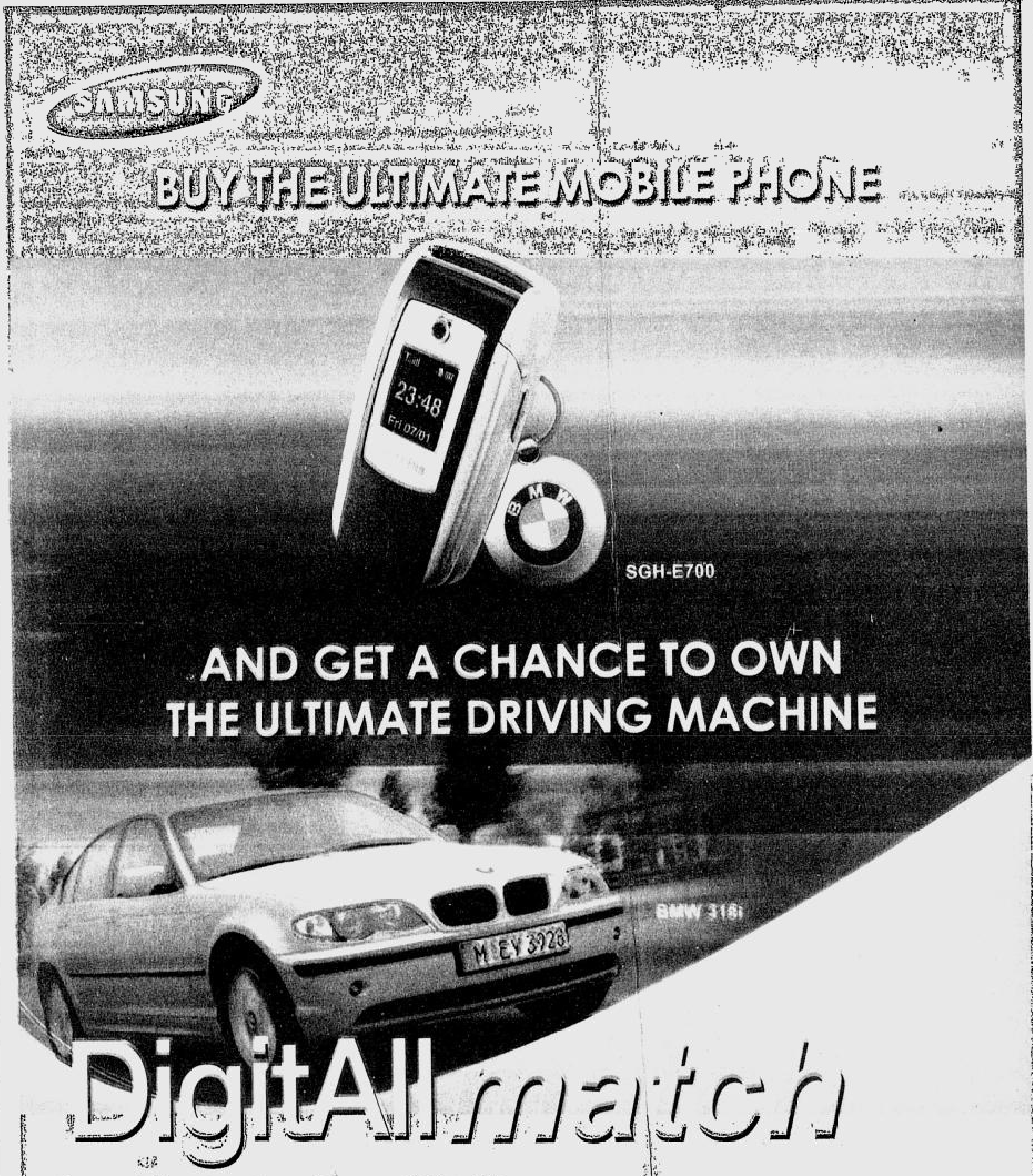
The solution isn't going to come with a token reduction of conspicuous consumption. There has to be a real transformation in lifestyles, more effort from wealthier Chinoy toward philanthropy.

I know of quite a few Chinoys who are doing this, maybe too quietly. For example, how many people know that the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce have built some 2,700 two-classroom buildings for public schools throughout the country at an average cost of P300,000 each? And that an impressed President turned over to the federation P60 million and Senate President Franklin Drilon P150 million from his Countrywide Development Fund to construct more of these buildings?

I will admit I am on the brink of despair myself, wondering if the Chinoy or Chinay is wanted at all in the Philippines. And then I remind myself of the heroism of driver Hilario Responso and *yaya* (nanny) Maricel de Dios, who last week resisted the kidnappers who were trying to take their ward, 10-year-old Gelica Dy. Unfortunately, Dy was taken and Responso and De Dios were shot and critically wounded. The newspapers, sadly, no longer mention the driver and the *yaya*.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net



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GRUDGE SEEN MOTIVE

3 snatched in mosque slain

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Three Muslim men were abducted as they prayed inside a mosque in Tagasilay village here late Sunday and were later found murdered.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko said gunmen barged into the mosque in Sitio Litacong around 9 p.m. and took brothers Gazmin and Bong Aaron and Asdabin Galim.

Kyamko said only the victims were inside the mosque at the time.

He said as soon as reports of the abduction came in, soldiers were sent to track down the kidnappers in the hope of rescuing the victims.

Kyamko said soldiers failed to catch up with the suspects but found the bloodied bodies of the victims in a nearby village.

"Unfortunately, their bodies were recovered after more than an hour in Sitio Marangan in Barangay Muti with multiple gunshot wounds," he said.

The abduction came a few hours before anti-terrorism czar Angelo Reyes was to visit the Southcom.

Reyes has recently been appointed as anti-kidnapping czar after a surge in kidnappings in the country.

But Kyamko said the abduction-execution has no connection with kidnappings perpetrated by organized groups such as the Abu Sayyaf, adding he was inclined to believe grudge was the motive for the crime.

Even then, Kyamko said the military and the police were continuing their efforts to identify and arrest the suspects.

As this developed, Reyes said kidnappings in Mindanao pale in comparison with what has been occurring in Metro Manila.

"I was informed that there has been no noticeable or dramatic increase in kidnappings in Mindanao compared to Manila," Reyes told reporters at the Southern Command headquarters here.

For this month alone, at least seven abductions occurred in Sulu, Basilan and in Central Mindanao.

The latest was Sunday's foiled kidnapping of couple Boy and Susan Villarin of Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat.

Kyamko said the military considers the Abu Sayyaf as the main threat to the safety of civilians while the Pentagon gang comes in second.

"We consider Abu Sayyaf as the main threat because of their number and the notoriety they have established in kidnapping," Kyamko said.

But Reyes said the government was also on the lookout for men in uniform who could be involved in kidnappings.

"We are looking deeper into it. Our concern is to get rid of these few scalawags, they are giving (our) institutions a bad name," Reyes told the INQUIRER in a separate interview. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau with AFP*

RAINBOW IN A WAKE

JOAN BONDOC/PDI PHOTO

A wide political spectrum turned up for the wake of journalist Joe Burgos in San Miguel, Bulacan. The wake briefly became a quiet moment to sit side by side for individuals who would otherwise be filling the air with opposing views—Rep. Satur Ocampo, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Palace spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, lawyer Harriet Demetriou and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Population issues show liberals in Muslim clergy

COTABATO CITY—Muslim clergies of the Philippine Darul Ifta (House of Opinion) share more liberal views on the birth control issue than their Catholic Church counterparts, the Population Commission (Popcom) here said.

In a press briefing in this city, Popcom Central Mindanao assistant director Edwin Quijano said that although the Catholic Church and Islam held similar views on birth control during the 2000 Cairo population convention, Muslim religious leaders look more objectively at the government's reproductive health and birth control programs.

'Fatwa'

Quijano said the Philippine Darul Ifta under its new leader Ustadz Omar Pasigan is finalizing a "fatwa" (opinion) on the so-called "pillars of reproductive health program" that the government is considering under two pending measures in Congress.

Under House Bill 6143 and Senate Bill 4110, dubbed among Church-backed pro-life advocates as the "sin bills" or the "evil measures," the pillars of reproductive health program are: informed choice, which Quijano said "definitely" excludes abortion; respect for life; responsible parenthood; and birth spacing.

Quijano said Muslim clergies have painstakingly gone through "shura" (consultation) and vast researches to come up with a much-awaited collective opinion on the issue of reproductive health or family planning. *Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Garcia: Don't blame me for Camacho's resignation

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Government Service and Insurance System (GSIS) president and general manager Winston Garcia insisted he had nothing to do with the resignation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

"I refused to believe that because I do not think that we can have a secretary of finance who can be that immature to resign just because he does not control GSIS," Garcia said in a radio station interview yesterday.

Garcia was reacting to the report that came out in the INQUIRER on Saturday that Camacho quit because of policy differences with Malacañang over the handling of issues hurled against GSIS.

Camacho had recommended that Garcia be removed as GSIS president and general manager but President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo did not act on it.

Garcia maintained that the GSIS had nothing to do with the problems faced by the Department of Finance, such as the ballooning budget deficit.

"It is the biggest budget deficit ever in Philippine history," Garcia added. He said the country's budget deficit now has reached P300 billion from P60 billion in the past two years.

He also assured the GSIS members not to worry about Camacho's resignation because it had no effect on the pension fund.

"His resignation will not help or affect the GSIS," he said in an interview over radio station dyLA.

There were insinuations that the President decided to keep Garcia because he was a scion of one of the influential political clans in Cebu.

Garcia is the son of Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia, the President's ally in Cebu and Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats chair in the province.

Garcia, however, described the insinuations as "unfair," saying his family in Cebu was nothing compared to the political bigwigs in Manila.

He said he believed that the President did not remove him from the GSIS because of his good performance.

"The problem with the other people, they refused to acknowledge our performance, in fact in my two years in (the) service, I generated the biggest net revenue for the GSIS since in its history," Garcia explained.

Garcia said he believed that his being a *probinsyano* (from the province) was the reason why he was constantly being criticized.

Protests had flooded the GSIS in recent days because of delays in the release of members' benefits.

NPA executes Army sergeant for 'sins vs people'

LEGAZPI CITY—The New People's Army on Monday claimed that they have already executed an Army hostage, SSgt. Juanito Tandoc, who was abducted on Wednesday last week in Barangay Mauraro, Guinobatan, Albay.

Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson Gregorio Rosal confirmed the execution as relayed by the chief of the Santos Binamira Command based in Albay.

"Tandoc was sentenced to death because of his anti-people activities. He was the head of the so-called re-engineered special operations team of the military whose main task is to poison the mind of the people through psy-war operations," Rosal said in a phone interview.

He said Tandoc's abduction was a special NPA operation.

Army spokesperson Capt. Marlon Ocfemia told the INQUIRER that there are reports on the execution but no confirmation has reached his office as of press time.

He said based on intelligence information, Tandoc was seen alive on Saturday at about 6 p.m.

Tandoc was earlier abducted by about 15 members of the New People's Army in Guinobatan through an NPA checkpoint.

He was riding a motorcycle with Sgt. Felix Florerita from Barangay Sinugtan, also of Guinobatan, going to the 22nd IB headquarters in Tula-tula, Ligao City when guerrillas stopped them in the boundary of Barangay Mauraro and Quibongbongan, about 2.5 km from the station of the Alpha Company.

Army Capt. Domingo Maceda said the group, upon recognizing Tandoc, stopped the vehicle and took the sergeant, but spared Florerita when Florerita introduced himself as a civilian who just hitched a ride with Tandoc.

Tandoc was the team leader of the re-engineered Special Operations Team of the Philippine Army operating in Guinobatan. *Joyce Mejillano and Delfin Mallari, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

PNP order hailed

CABANATUAN CITY—Motorists in Nueva Ecija hailed a recent order of the Philippine National Police to end the practice of groups stopping vehicles and asking drivers to buy tickets or give donations purportedly for their projects or gatherings. The order said the practice is not only illegal as it impedes the flow of traffic but can also cause traffic accidents. ***Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Robbers take payroll money

SARIAYA, Quezon—At least three unidentified men sporting black long-sleeved shirts with Philippine National Police logos waylaid a vehicle carrying teachers' payroll money amounting to P735,000 on Nov. 14 in Barangay Lutucan Uno. A police report said Blesilda Carlos, cashier of the Lutucan National High School, and three others, including a security guard, were aboard a Tamaraw FX after withdrawing cash from a Lucena bank when the suspects, aboard a motorcycle without a license plate, shot one of the tires of the vehicle, forcing the driver to stop. The robbers took the money at gunpoint and fled. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Bill abolishing SK nixed

BATANGAS CITY—The provincial council approved a resolution opposing a bill that will abolish the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK). Board member Sergio Atienza said SK representatives "contribute their extraordinary talents by proposing vital resolutions and ordinances to the benefit of their constituents." The bill is now awaiting third reading at the committee on local government.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Quezon church robbed

LUCENA CITY—A male visitor who introduced himself as a "religious brother" is suspected of robbing the office of Quezon Catholic church leader Bishop Emilio Marquez on Nov. 13 inside the bishop's mansion in Barangay Isabang. Police said the man took about P180,000 in cash and a bank check worth P120,000, all donations for the church's charity projects. Arcadio Estrope, the mansion janitor, told police the suspect, who introduced himself as "Brother Arsenio" from Gumaca, was looking for Marquez. Since the bishop was still sleeping, the janitor told the guest to wait at the bishop's office. Left alone, the suspect allegedly forced open the office's drawer, seized all valuables and left.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Drunken men kill cop

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A policeman was killed last weekend when three drunken men exchanged heated words with him inside a passenger jeep in Barangay Makina, Balete, Batangas. Police said PO1 Reynaldo Luna, 28, assigned to the Balete police station, was on board a Balete-bound passenger jeep when suspects Rodel Roxas, Danny Solomon and Roger Roxas flagged down the jeepney on Saturday night. Rodel and Solomon, who witnesses said were drunken, asked the driver to wait for Roger. When the two allegedly saw Luna looking at them, they shouted at him and asked why he was looking at them. Luna replied that "it was nothing" and introduced himself as a police officer. This angered the suspects who stabbed Luna. Police said Luna was forced to fire at the suspects but one of the men, Roger, grabbed Luna's gun and shot him at close range. Residents rushed Luna and the wounded suspect to the nearby Mediatrix Hospital where both were declared dead on arrival. Roger fled with Luna's gun and is now being hunted. ***Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Mangled bodies found

CABUYAO, Laguna—Police found two severely mutilated remains of unidentified women in garbage bags dumped at a feeder road in Sitio Bulihan, Barangay Sala last weekend. Village resident Erwin Ereno reported to town police that he saw two garbage bags emitting a foul smell on the barangay road. When they went to the area, police found a headless woman clad in brown *malong* and underwear inside a green bag. Its head was found inside a plastic bag some 10 meters away. Police also found a second body in pink dress and without legs in a large black bag. The leg was found a few meters away from the bodies. Police said residents did not see or hear any vehicle along the road hours before Ereno saw the bags. The place had become a common dumping ground for summary execution victims, police said.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TV more child-friendly now, says group

DAVAO CITY—The number of child-friendly TV programs has been increasing, a sign that TV networks are becoming more sensitive in protecting children from smut, violence, and obscene commercialism and in pushing positive Filipino values for young viewers, a group said.

Edgardo Roces, president of the Southeast Asia Foundation for Children's Television (SEAFCTV), said this positive development could have been triggered by the launching four years ago of the "Anak TV Seal", a national award bestowed on TV programs classified as child-friendly.

Roces said from 15 shows in 2000, the number of child-friendly programs rose to 22 in 2001 and 29 in 2002.

This year, he said the number went up to 45. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Inquirer story helps stop slaughter of dugong

MATI, Davao Oriental—An INQUIRER story on the possible extinction of sea cows in the 21,000-hectare Pujada Bay here has fortunately led to a stop in the killing of the mammals.

The story, which reported the hunting and slaughtering of the animals and the dangers they face from garbage dumping, came out in the INQUIRER Mindanao last year.

David Pajarillaga, Mati community environment resources officer (CENRO), said local fishermen realized that massive hunting was decimating the already low dugong population.

Fishermen also found out that hunting the animals for their meat was illegal.

Catching and slaughtering dugongs are punishable by imprisonment of six months and fine ranging from P1,000 to P2,000.

Since the massive information campaign triggered by the INQUIRER story, Pajarillaga said residents of Barangays Lawigan, Mamali and Bad-as stopped hunting and slaughtering the animals.

The slaughter of dugongs was common in these villages.

"There is no more massive catching and slaughtering of the endangered dugong in Pujada Bay since the INQUIRER came out with a story on the massive catching and slaughtering of dugongs here. They realized that dugongs, which are endangered marine mammals, must be preserved," said Pajarillaga.

Former President Fidel Ramos declared the Pujada Bay in 1994 as a protected seascape and landscape.

Alfeo Piloton, chief of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources here, said Pujada Bay is the dugong's sanctuary.

Pajarillaga said what complicates the dugong preservation program is the locals' liking to its meat.

"Dugong meat tastes very much like that of cow but sells much cheaper," he said.

At local wet markets in the province, dugong meat sells for P50 to P100 a kilo compared to about P130 for lean beef.

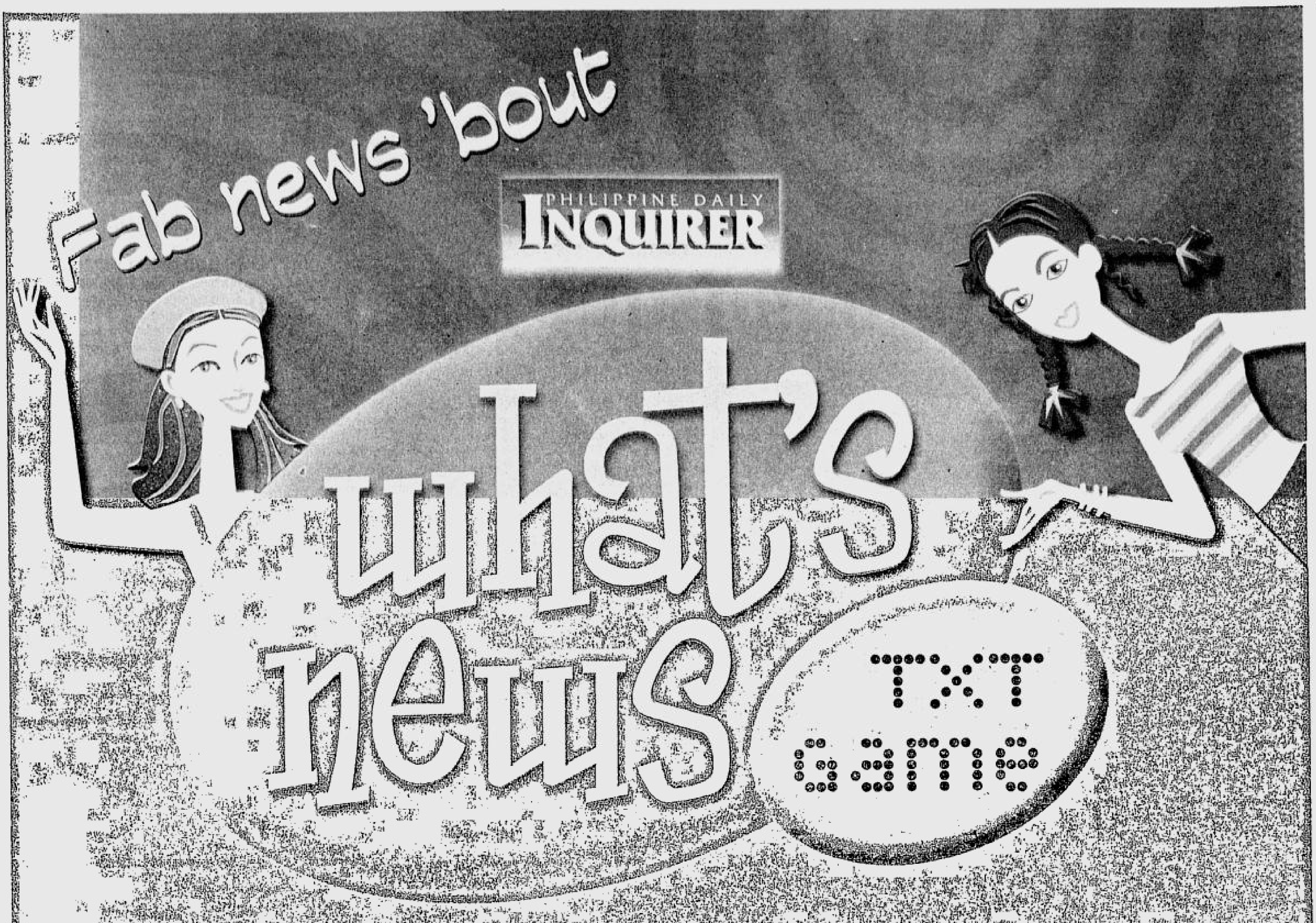
Garbage is also threatening the animals.

Pajarillaga said after the story came out, Mayor Francisco Rabat banned the dumping of garbage in the bay.

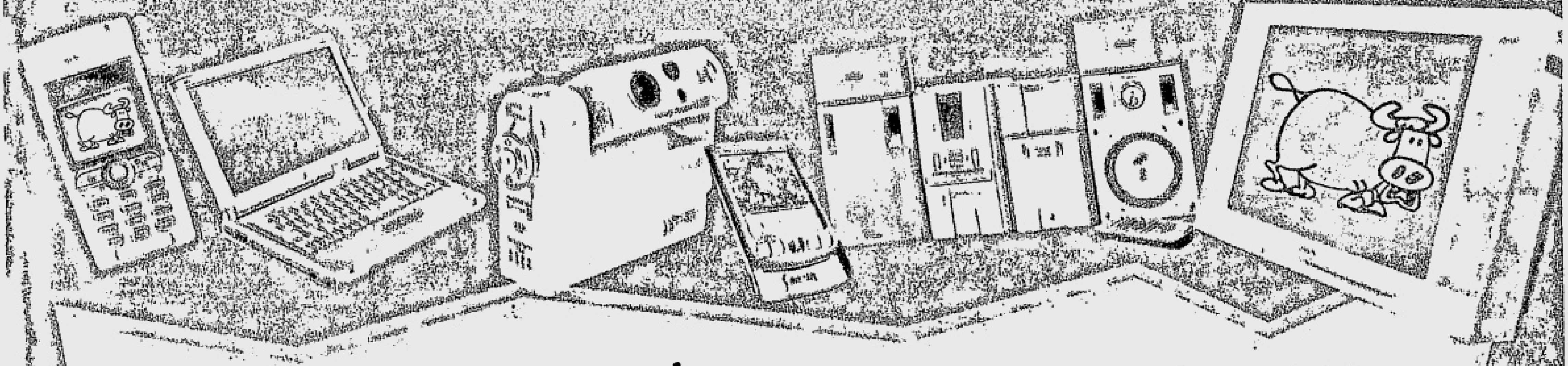
Dugong is one of only four living members of the mammalian order of sea cows, sirenia, and the only remaining member of the family *Dugongidae*.

The other sirenians are *Trichechus manatus* (The West Indian manatee), *Trichechus inunguis* (the Amazonian manatee) and *Trichechus senegalensis* (the West African manatee).

Dugongs can be 2.4 to 2.7 meters long and could weigh from 230 to 360 kilograms. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



Check out who won these gizmos!



Grand prize winner of Techie Package worth over ₱200,000!

Ruelle Albert Castro

Grand raffle winners of ₱10,000 each!

Christine David
Maria Laurence Cantil
Janet Legaspi
Jacklyn Marie L. Cauyan
Regina Aurora Obra
Winnie Rose Abero
Mayla Callanga
Jocelyn Trujillo-Alivia
Karen Antonette Amata

Mary Anne Casiano
Annabelle Moreno
Jeomar Faller
Dori Anthony Maruya
Ma. Cecilia G. Ocampo
Brendalyn H. Del Rosario
William Cabebe
Marisol Victorioso
Leah Tajale

Rechilda D. Magpayo
Joseph L. Limos
Lourdes O. Centeno
Maria Shela Lureca
Mark Jason Baltazar
Ireneo P. Baldonado Jr.
Lerma L. Palma
Shariene A. Alvior
Maria Elsa Aquino

Jennifer Benavides
Margaret Y. Uy
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Rachel Anne Sy
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Ma. Victoria L. Benoza
Angeli Austria
Agnes C. Torres
Hazel Almanzor
Annalyn C.Marasigan
Samera Usman
Amerita Bacani
Neil Niño Lim
Benjamin Magsambol
Leah Espiritu
Nicolo Maniquis

Richard Guillen
Andrew Acompanado
Edward Sobro
Roy Dupa
Barbara Jamili
Aldrin Calimlim
Freddie E. Boon
Stephanie Yu
Allendy Tan
Salvador C. Guarino Jr.
Aileen Lim
Mark Anthony Montalban
Heidilyn Sulit
Reveille Racimo
Patrick Reyes
Francis Mendoza
Ronald Fajardo

Anna Melissa Mendoza
Darius Belleza
Allen Nolasco
Mari-An Santos
Joey D. Reyes
Juan Paolo T. Bituin
Robert Noel Olivares
Joy Lao
Mylene P. Zorilla
Marvin Cruz
Jessie Panerio
Kresta Lei Garingo
Manuel de Regla
Nomer Guiwa
Jackie Lou Santos
Fredentor Benitez
John Francis Tan Lee Hok

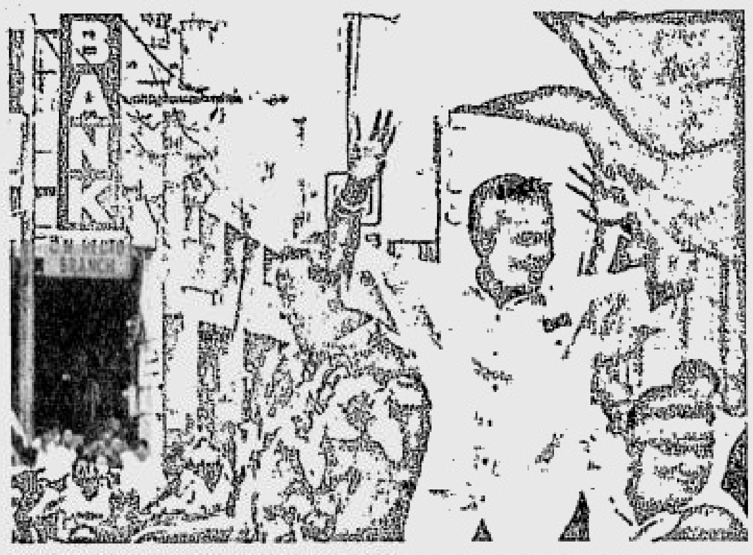
Manly Ugalde
Emmanuel Figuracion
Rosario Guzman
Morena M. Vergel De Dios
Jose Vener Manalad
Leslie F. Inso
Joy Lingad
Marc Bryan Homecillo
Mary Jane Diaz

Please contact Zane Ronquillo at 897-8808 to confirm claiming requirements. Some winners are required to present a waiver from the registered subscriber, and some are required to settle an overdue balance before claiming the prize.

Sony Ericsson

Per DTI-NC

Hail the conquering hero


MANNY Pacquiao waves to the people using the same hands that have made him famous. With him is Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. JM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Margaux Ortiz, Tarra Quismundo, and Gil Cabacungan

COLORED confetti rained on Ayala Avenue as boxing champion Manny Pacquiao passed by in a motorcade, with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and other supporters yesterday at around noon.

People on their lunch breaks went out of their offices to wave and take pictures of the conquering hero, who waved back using the same hands that had knocked the lights out of 30 other men.

In Manila, people lined the streets and shouted his name.

"I am very happy... I would have shaken their hands one by one if I had the time," Pacquiao said in Filipino, while on a break from a motorcade that took him from Manila to the heart of the financial district in Makati City.

The current toast of Philippine sports is also one of the most sought after endorsers in the upcoming 2004 elections as presidential wannabes line up to get Pacquiao to deliver the knockout punch for them in the political arena.

In an interview after the awarding ceremony in his honor in Malacañang, Pacquiao said there have been a number of prospective presidential bets that have approached him to get his support in their respective campaigns next year.

"I can't say their names because people might think I'm politicking," said the winner of the International Boxing Federation's junior featherweight division.

Pacquiao took home the $350,000 (P19 million) cash prize after he beat Mexican pugilist Marco Antonio Barrera in San Antonio, Texas on Nov. 16.

Yesterday, the President awarded him the Medal of Merit and P1 million in cash.

The Manila city government also gave Pacquiao a condominium unit at the Residencias de Manila in Pandacan.

Cheated wife rats on bank rob suspect

HAD BANK robbery suspect Reynaldo Saddi refrained from womanizing, he would still have been a free man.

But his wife learned that he was living with another woman in Tuguegarao, Cagayan. On Thursday, the angry woman went to the Tuguegarao Police and reported that her husband was one of three men who had robbed a bank in Valenzuela City last June.

After the wife gave the information to the police, Tuguegarao Police chief Joseph Peñaflor verified the information with Valenzuela City Police chief Jose Marcelo, who sent a team under SPO4 Henry Marteja to Cagayan.

Armed with an arrest warrant issued by Judge Nena Santos, SPO4 Henry Marteja and his men arrested Saddi on Friday.

Police said during interrogation, Saddi admitted to the police that he and two other men robbed the Allied Bank branch on Paso de Blas on June 11. He identified his cohorts as "Arnel" and "Ruel."

After the robbery, they divided the P2.4-million loot in an apartment in Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Rubio; 48

MARIO Rubio, father of INQUIRER graphics designer Marlone Rubio, yesterday died of heart failure at the Chinese General Hospital in Manila. He was 48. He is survived by wife Zenaida and children Mary Grace, Marlone, Marianne, Mark Sammy and Maricelle. His remains lie in state at 2130-A Int. 8 S. Trinidad, Tondo, Manila. Interment will be announced later.

Two suspected cop killers wounded

A RUNNING gun battle left two of four suspected armed robbers wounded in Manila early yesterday morning.

The suspects believed to be members of the so-called Harurot gang are also being eyed in the killing of P01 Michael Dennis Corpuz on Nov. 2.

At 1:50 a.m. yesterday, three members of the Western Police District mobile patrol unit were on patrol along Quirino Avenue when they saw a white taxi (UKC 560) beat a red light at the corner of Pedro Gil Street.

Through radio, the lawmen determined that the taxi had been taken from cabbie Nestor Gorospe some four hours earlier along Sequia Street in Sta. Ana.

The policemen gave chase but were shot at as they caught up with the suspects near Onyx Street prompting them to shoot back.

At the railroad tracks on Carreon Street, the taxi rammed a lamp post prompting the suspects to flee on foot.

More shots were fired as the four armed men ran in different directions.

When the smoke cleared, suspect Luis de Torre was sprawled on the ground with bullet wounds in his body. He was taken to the Ospital ng Maynila.

The police found on De Torre a Nokia 5110 which belonged to the cabbie. A .38-caliber revolver was also seized from him.

Later, the police traced the home of another suspect, a certain Ruel Dionisio, whom neighbors saw bloodied before quickly fleeing.

Eyeing the suspects in the killing of Corpuz, Western Police homicide unit head Sr. Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling Jr. said the lawman was shot dead after stopping a white taxi cab in Malate.

The Harurot gang members are suspected of having been involved in other killings in the city. *Leila Salaverria*

MRT 'campaign' posters off limits to MMDA

By Margaux Ortiz and Tina Santos

ALAS, there are things which the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) cannot touch in its anti-vandalism campaign.

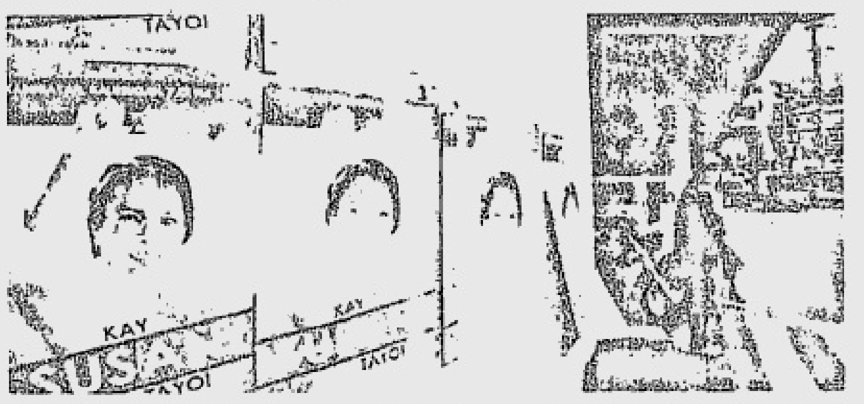
Among such things are those on the concrete posts and the walls of the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) and the Light Rail Transit (MRT).

MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said yesterday the agency would remove posters and other "advertising materials" on Edsa without hesitation.

But he added, "We can not touch the ones on the Metro Rail Transit and Light Rail Transit posts."

Nacianceno said product and promotional posters, streamers and banners were banned from "littering" main thoroughfares, unless they were on MRT or LRT property.

Citing claims by MRT officials, Nacianceno said operators of the light rail system were allowed to put up advertisements on their property.



THESE promotional posters on an MRT wall are out of reach of the MMDA. JOAN BONDOC

He cited the case of posters of GMA 7 reporter Susan Enriquez, which are plastered all over the MRT's structures.

Nacianceno explained that GMA was one of MRT's major advertisers.

Enriquez's posters, which carry her photo and the words "Kay Susan Tayo," could easily be mistaken as campaign materials.

But a network executive, Nessa Valdellon, said the posters were only part of their marketing campaign to promote Enriquez's new show "Kay Susan Tayo!" which would premier on Nov. 30.

On the show, Enriquez will tackle women's issues from their civil rights to fashion and beauty tips.

"Kay Susan Tayo!" will air weekly on Sundays beginning 10:30 a.m.

METROBRIEFS

Bong in hot water again

FORMER basketball star Paul "Bong" Alvarez is again in trouble, this time for allegedly slapping a security guard and ramming the barrier of White Plains subdivision in Quezon City early yesterday morning. Police said Alvarez, 35, allegedly got upset when the guard, Alfredo Bactol, refused to let him into the subdivision at 4:45 a.m. Alvarez and his wife, Almira Muhlach, were on their way to visit Zoren Legaspi and Carmina Villaroel in White Plains. *Tina Santos*

53 fall in drug roundup

FIFTY-THREE suspected drug offenders were arrested in Manila. Stanley Mosher, 50, whom police said was a native of South America, was among those arrested for illegal drugs possession. Police said the foreigner was nabbed at the Aristocrat restaurant in Malate over the weekend. Of the 53 arrested, 13 were drug pushers and 40 were drug dependents. Supt. Marcelino Pedrozo said most of the suspects were arrested in Quiapo. *Leila Salaverria*

Slain in jail

MALABON City Jail inmate Carlos Nayangga on Sunday was mauled to death by his fellow inmates. PO2 Bobby Egera yesterday identified the suspects as inmates Jaymar Paner, Jobert Roque, 42, Roberto Paz, 32 and Taeguro Aquino, 21. Police suspect that Nayangga, 33, who used to be the jail's mayor (chief trustee), was killed because he was hoarding the food supplies intended for other inmates. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Eucharist congress

FORMER Ambassador to the Vatican and President of Mother Butler's Guild Tita de Villa is one of the main speakers at the Eucharistic Congress on Nov. 30 at the Pink Sisters Convent at 71 Hemady Ave., New Manila, Quezon City. Registration starts at 7 a.m. For information, call (0917) 895-6921, (0918) 901-6439, (0917) 272-5177, or email at: eucharisticcongress03@yahoo.com.

Trade exhibit opens

FORMER President Corazon Aquino and Sen. Loren Leviste will open the country's biggest business exposition today at the Manila Hotel. President Macapagal-Arroyo will keynote the event. The 29th PBC is set to run from Nov. 25 to Nov. 29. For information, call the PCCI Secretariat at 527-0011.

Turning bad karma into good

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

A POLITICAL has-been and a disgruntled leader of a civil society group are prodding actor Fernando Poe Jr. to run for President.

Former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and Pastor "Boy" Saycon, secretary general of the Council on Philippine Affairs, are not motivated by ideal reasons for wanting FPJ to run. They just want to get a piece of the action, so to speak.

Both Cojuangco and Saycon are angry with President Macapagal-Arroyo because they were not given lucrative positions in her administration. They thought their support for her at Edsa 2 would be repaid with well-paying jobs.

* * *

Peping Cojuangco was one of those secretly running the government during the tenure of his sister, former President Cory Aquino.

Ms Aquino, a plain housewife before she was thrust into politics, didn't know anything about governance. That's why she was called the "TWA President." TWA stood for "*talagang walang alam*" or completely naive (the English translation is even kind).

And because she didn't know governance, she left the management of the country's affairs to her trusted advisers and Cojuangco.

That's the reason why we had several coup attempts during Aquino's term. And toward the end of her term the country experienced frequent blackouts that spilled over to the early months of her successor's term.

* * *

Cory was an "8-to-5" President, referring to the length of time she holds office every day. Like an ordinary clerk, Cory started work at 8 a.m. and wound up at 5 p.m.

She should not be disturbed after 5 p.m. Those were her instructions to her subordinates because she was relaxing after office hours.

If FPJ became President it would be the Cory Aquino presidency all over again with Peping Cojuangco acting as adviser to Ronnie Poe.

* * *

Poe's plans to run for the country's highest post reminds us of comedian Dolphy who was rumored planning to run for mayor of Quezon City some years ago.

"*Ayaw ko dahil baka ako manalo at kung manalo ako, ano ang gagawin ko* (I don't want to run because I might win. And if I win what will I do)?"

Dolphy was intelligent enough to know that although he's the king of comedy, he might become an incompetent administrator.

Ah, but FPJ is probably not so intelligent as Dolphy!

* * *

Let's ignore the fact that FPJ is a high school dropout and doesn't have any experience in running a public office like the post of barangay captain.

Let's grant that FPJ would have many advisers (his friend, deposed President Erap had 50, or so Erap claimed) who would lend their expertise to his presidency.

Still, FPJ would have to make important decisions affecting the life of the nation. After all the suggestions and proposals were placed in his lap, FPJ as president would have to make the final decision.

How do you expect FPJ to make important national decisions when right now he can't decide whether to run or not to run?

* * *

No amount of sympathizing by the government with the relatives of young Coca-Cola executive Betti Sy can bring her back to life.

The government will make Sy's loss less painful, not only for her family but also for the Filipino people, by promising to adopt a "scorched earth" policy against kidnappers. This means that kidnappers will not be given any quarter.

The government will have to go after kidnap-for-ransom syndicates more intensely than before. It will have to use all possible means to flush out those lowlifes out of their holes and kill them one by one, if the need arises.

Then and only then can the government say that Betti Sy did not die in vain.

* * *

I condole with former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and her husband, Jun, over the death of their son Alexander Robert or "AR."

As a parent, I know how they feel.

I'm at a loss for words in conveying my sympathies.

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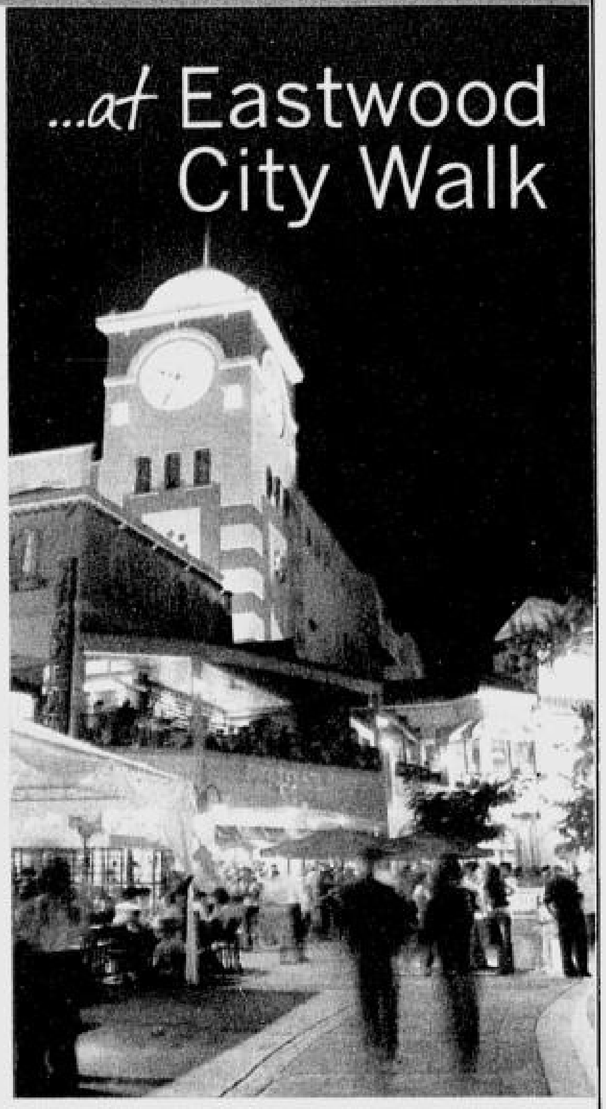
Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

34 Reasons to Celebrate...

...at Eastwood City Walk



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Binay fed up

Mayor assails contractor

By Margaux Ortiz

MAKATI City Mayor Jejomar Binay has lost his patience over the snail-paced work along the Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo).

Binay yesterday told R-2 Builders, the contractor digging up the thoroughfare, to set a date on when to complete the project.

Citing complaints by drivers of public utility vehicles and owners of businesses, the mayor asked R-2 Builders to explain the delay in its completion.

"No one seems to know when this project will be completed," Binay said.

"What is certain is that the project has made anarchy a daily reality for pedestrians and commuters," he added.

The mayor said that the completion date, along with other pertinent information about the project, should be posted at the construction site.

The delay in the project, which is part of the Metro Manila Urban Transport Integration Project being undertaken by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the Department of Public Works and Highways, has gravely affected businesses, travellers and public safety.

Binay noted that the income of public utility drivers had gone down and that some businesses in the area have closed shop, resulting in income losses to the city and the community.

The mayor also said that Pasong Tamo residents and pedestrians live daily with potential hazards to "life and limb."

"The city cannot bear the inconvenience anymore," Binay stressed.

16th bank robbery hits Metro Manila

By Alcuin Papa

ROBBERS struck again in Metro Manila yesterday and carted away P300,000 in the 16th bank heist in the metropolis this year.

Five suspects barged into the Union Bank Dongalo branch along Quirino Avenue in Parañaque City at 1:50 p.m.

The suspects, armed with .45-caliber pistols, disarmed security guard Robert Tiangco before going straight to the cashiers and emptying the cash boxes.

Sr. Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque City chief of police, said some of the suspects boarded passenger jeepneys while others fled on foot.

The robbery took all of five minutes, Estilles said.

The heist was the 16th in Metro Manila this year, according to the National Capital Region Police Office.

Eight of the bank robberies happened in the southern part of the metropolis under the Southern Police District headed by Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez.

In Quezon City, armed suspects shot dead a security guard and drove off with an undetermined amount of cash during an armored van robbery at the corner of Edsa and Roosevelt Avenue at 2:55 p.m.

According to the police, armed men suddenly shot at the crew of a Security Bank van which had just collected money from the Jollibee fast food at the busy street corner.

Watchman Rizal Guntang was killed and six other persons were wounded when other security guards and policemen from a nearby Central Police District precinct traded shots with the suspects.

With a report from Tina Santos

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SPORTS

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RUFINO L. GONZALES

WHERE'S THE MONEY? Pacquiao in his moment of glory

HBO budgeted $.7M as Pacquiao purse

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

HAS someone's bank account fattened other than that of Manny Pacquiao's?

Reports reaching the INQUIRER have it that HBO, pioneer of the pay-per-view concept, actually paid a whopping $700,000 (P38.5 million) as purse of Pacquiao for his conquest of Mexican featherweight great Marco Antonio Barrera.

The Mexican idol reportedly got a heftier $1-million payday.

Boston Herald's George Kimball, in his report yesterday, said that at one point in the 11th round, the two HBO commentators let it slip that "while the network had budgeted some $700,000 for Pacquiao's share of the purse, the Filipino's contract somehow paid him just $300,000 for a virtuoso performance that has to rate as boxing's upset of the year."

Based on what was divulged to media and to his manager, Marty Elorde, Pacquiao was supposed to have received only $350,000. The training expenses will be deducted from the purse before Pacquiao, his manager, business manager and trainers divide the spoils.

So who could have pocketed the other half of the $700,000? This question begs to be answered all the more especially after Viva Sports has come up with a report that right after the fight, HBO had dangled a whopping $25-million, six-fight contract to the Filipino superstar.

This time, however, Pacquiao has told Viva Sports that HBO is trying to arrange a deal directly with Pacquiao's Filipino handlers, effectively cutting off his American agent, Murad Muhammad.

The Filipino champ plans to return to action sometime in March. Among those on his radar screen are Erik Morales and WBA/IBF featherweight champ Juan Manuel Marquez.

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Vietnam ready for SEAG party

HANOI, Vietnam—With the kickoff to the Southeast Asian Games just a week away, Vietnam said Monday it is ready to welcome visitors to the country's first major sporting event.

The communist country expects 10,000 foreign visitors, including athletes and officials, during the 22nd Games that will run from Dec. 5-13.

Most of the sporting events will be held in the capital, Hanoi, and Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), where workers have been sprucing up the streets. A total of 32 sports will take place in 11 cities and provinces.

"Throughout the sports events at the SEA Games, Southeast Asian countries will closely unite, share cultural values and customs, and strengthen mutual understanding with an aim to build a unified region," said Sports Minister Nguyen Danh Thai, head of the SEA Games Organizing Committee.

"With that spirit, the organizing committee of the host country has been doing all its best to secure a successful SEA Games."

Thai said Vietnam has enough accommodation to house everyone arriving and that traffic jams —as experienced during the opening of Hanoi's National Stadium in September—will not be a problem because roads have been expanded, police motorcades will be used to escort athletes and some streets will be open only to buses.

Participants include athletes from the Philippines and nine other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, plus East Timor. The SEAG, held once every two years, is the biggest sporting event in the region, and 442 sets of medals are up for grabs in Vietnam. *AP*

YAP

DAVID

Yap-David duel sideshow to PBL leadership tussle

WELCOAT'S James Yap and Montaña's Gary David, the league's top scorers, decide who is the better shot today when their teams collide in the PBL Platinum Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

The performance of the top two gunners of the national team will be crucial when the Paint Masters (4-1) and the Jewels (3-1) dispute the solo lead at 1:45 p.m.

David is norming a leading 18.25 points per game followed by Yap with a 15.4 average.

However, Yap gets a lot of support from his equally talented teammates, most of whom are also on the RP team that will compete in the coming Vietnam Southeast Asian Games.

BluStar Detergent (3-2) tackles doormat Viva Mineral Water in the second game at 3:45 p.m.

"It's going to be an interesting match-up," said Welcoat coach Leo Austria of the Yap-David duel.

"Both are fine shooters and can penetrate if they want to."

Austria said he is assigning the burly Willy Wilson to watch the 6-foot-3 David.

"I have to make special plans for him (David) because when he plays well, all his teammates play good also," said Austria.

Aside from David, Montaña also relies heavily on Mike Manigo, Nurjanjam Alfad, Christian Coronel and Marlon Basco.

But Welcoat clearly has aces up its sleeve with certified scorers like Paul Artadi, Nelbert Omolon, Ervin Sotto and Jercules Tangkay. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

STANDINGS	W	L
Welcoat	4	1
Montaña	3	1
Fash Liquid	3	2
BluStar	2	3
ICTSI	2	3
Sunkist	2	3
Viva Min.	1	4

GAMES TODAY
(Pasig Sports Center)
1:45 p.m.—Welcoat vs Montaña
3:45 p.m.—BluStar vs Viva

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La Salle-Ateneo tennis match kicks off second semester action

DE LA SALLE opens defense of the women's tennis crown against bitter rival Ateneo on Nov. 30 to kick off the second half of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) season.

The Lady Archers and Lady Eagles collide at the Rizal Racket Club inside the Rizal Provincial Capitol Compound in Pasig City after a brief opening ceremony at 11 a.m.

University of Santo Tomas, runner-up last season, also plunges into action against last year's third placer University of the Philippines in the other women's contest.

It will be De La Salle against University of the East and Ateneo versus UP in men's hostilities.

Eight sports in the UAAP calendar will also be played in the second semester.

Women's softball at the UST field and junior volleyball at the UE gym will start Dec. 6, baseball at the Rizal Memorial Stadium gets going Dec. 7, football at the Ateneo field begins Jan. 18, and taekwondo at the UST gym is set Jan. 21-24.

Badminton starts on Jan.25 at the Rizal Memorial Badminton Hall, judo begins Feb. 1 at the UP gym, fencing gets going Feb.14 at the Philsports in Pasig City and athletics is set Feb. 19-22 at the Rizal oval.

Meanwhile, the Nestle Non-Stop Cheering Competition of the UAAP which was held last September bagged for league coveror ABS-CBN through Studio 23 the Best TV Sports Show from the Catholic Mass Media Awards recently.

Dean Gilda Uy of UP accepted the award on behalf of the league.

First-semester action included basketball, the league's perennial centerpiece tournament, which was won by Far Eastern at the expense of defending champion Ateneo. Adamson's Lady Falcons prevailed in women's play.

NCRAA HOOPS

PUP posts 157-13 rout

POLYTECHNIC University of the Philippines highlighted a day of mismatches in the 11th National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) basketball tournament Sunday with a 157-13 annihilation of City College of Manila at the RTU gym.

It was one of the most lopsided games in memory with Genebeth Ramos even outscoring the entire CCM lineup by 16 as she led PUP with 29 points.

In another Group A contest, AMA Computer College downed Rizal Technological University, 51-39. Philippine Maritime Institute whipped St. Benedict, 73-50, while La Salle-Dasmariñas beat New Era University in Group B.

There was another one-sided game in men's play as San Sebastian College of Cavite overwhelmed AMA Computer College, 95-44, for its second victory in Group A.

The SSC Baycats, coached by former pro Edgar Macaraya, limited the Harmon Codiñera-mentored Cybertigers to just six points in the first quarter and had the game all wrapped up with a 47-21 lead at the half.

Rizal Technological University and National College of Business and Arts turned back separate foes in Group B to catch up with New Era University, Philippine Maritime Institute and St. Benedict College for the early lead.

RTU dealt PUP its second straight setback with a 93-86 win and NCBA put away PSBA, 111-88.

Red Bull owner still keeping Guiao and Co.

By June Navarro

RESIGNATION denied.

Red Bull Barako team owner George Chua yesterday rejected the courtesy resignations tendered by his manager and coaching staff, saying "there is ... most certainly no shame" in the Barakos' quarterfinal exit in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference.

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(Philsports Arena)
5 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs San Miguel
7:30 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Talk 'N Text

"We are convinced that every member of our team did their best to win and we can ask for nothing more. We have learned the sweetness of victory, and we certainly know how to keep our dignity in defeat," he said.

Chua said coach Yeng Guiao and his staff as well as team manager Tony Chua and team consultant Andy Jao continued to enjoy his trust and confidence and even praised them for their professionalism and 'delicadeza.'"

"Their act has made us even prouder of the quality of men we have in our ranks, highly principled professionals who would not hesitate to put their own jobs on the line as proof of their commitment to the highest level of performance of their duties," said Chua.

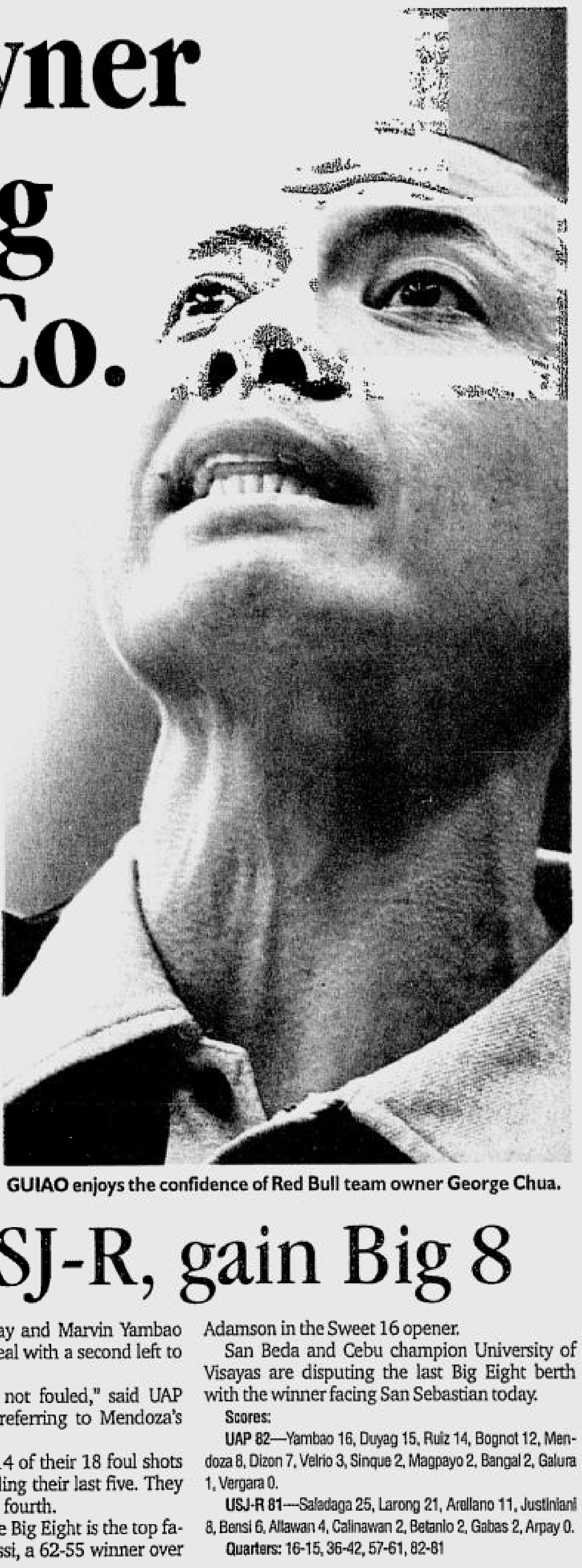
Guiao and Co. had offered to quit and give Chua a free hand if he thinks the team needs to be overhauled after Red Bull lost its quarterfinal duel with Talk 'N Text.

The Barakos dominated the eliminations following a franchise-best 10 straight wins.

Rumors of game-fixing and point-shaving swirled after the unexpected loss of Red Bull, which also failed to reach the semifinals of the All Filipino Conference.

"We assure our countless fans and loyal supporters that we are here to stay. One conference does not make a team. There are more championships waiting to be won," said Chua.

Red Bull Barako owned the distinction of becoming the fastest team to string up two championships in just three seasons by winning the Commissioner's Cup in 2001 and 2002.



GUIAO enjoys the confidence of Red Bull team owner George Chua.

SPORTSWATCH

Sabandon, Tierra advance

POP Sabandon and Patrick John Tierro beat their rivals yesterday to reach the second round of the P400,000 Cebuana Lhuillier Men's Tennis Masters at the Manila Polo Club. Sabandon, semifinalist in the just-concluded PCA Open, survived Rocky Paglalunan, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, to advance against fourth seed Rolando Ruel Jr. Tierro, the Coca-Cola runner-up, rallied past Jaime Solon, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, to advance against top seed and PCA Open runner-up Johnny Arcilla. Alexander Lazaro downed Jessie Lapore, 7-5, 6-2, and Elberto Anasta defeated Antonio Sagansay III, 6-2, 7-6 (4), to gain second round slot.

FEU posts 3rd win in badminton

FAR Eastern University routed University of the Philippines, 4-1, over the weekend to remain unbeaten in three games in the Philippine Badminton Tournaments Intercollegiate Cup at the Olympic Badminton Center in Libis, Quezon City. Chona Rivera won the ladies singles.over Liza Somillo, 13-10, 11-4, Lloyd Escoses took the men's singles over Jaime Junio, 13-15, 15-13, 15-5, Owen Lopez and Wilson Frias defeated Marlon Villalon and Benjo Garcia in the men's doubles, 15-7, 15-2, and Mark Alvin Natividad and Louvelle Leonor downed Ace Domingo and Sherly Caraig in the mixed doubles, 15-6, 15-8.

DLS-Zobel beats Southville

DE LA SALLE-Zobel stretched its winning run to three in the 1st Philippine Schools Athletic Association-Burlington Cup basketball tournament Sunday, rallying to beat Southville International School, 68-59, at the Southville School gym in B.F. Homes, Las Piñas City. Joshua Teoducio and John Morelos scored 17 and 16 points, respectively, for the La Sallites, who survived a 32-point effort from Southville's Alexander Kalishka and 16 from John Martinez. DLS-Z coach Boris Aldeguer's full-court press in the second half reaped dividends as the La Sallites came back from a 32-37 halftime deficit and improved to 3-0.

2-cock Ulutan lures 140 entries

TOTAL guaranteed prizes amounting to P300,000 is at stake in La Loma Cockpit's "Jeep Papremyo 2-Cock-Ulutan" which will start at 9 a.m. today with 140 entries competing. Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola are hosting the event with an entry fee of P2,200. The champions will share the P100,000 prize while P25,000 awaits the last winner. An owner-type jeep worth P130,000 will be given to the fastest kill champion. Second placer gets a six cu. ft. refrigerator; third, 21" color TV; fourth, fifth and sixth, washing machine. The first 20 winners will get P1,000 each. Registration starts at 7 p.m. For inquiries, contact 746-2136 and 0918-5040528 (Aba).

Cordero-Macalino title showdown

BAGUIO—Kyle Cordero nipped JV Custodio, 6-3, 7-5, to arrange a titular showdown with Juan Paolo Macalino, a 6-1, 6-3 victor past Calvin Canlas, in the unisex 10-under division in the rain-marred 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop here at the Baguio Tennis Club. Custodio and Canlas had earlier ousted Clarice Patrimonio, 6-4, 6-3 and Erica Lagura, 6-0, 6-1.

La Salle-Lipa rules volleyball events

DE LA SALLE-Lipa asserted its might in volleyball, copping the championship in the high school girls and elementary boys and girls in the 2003 Milo Little Olympics at the TUP courts. Colegio San Juan de Letran captured the high school boys division to neutralize the assault of the De La Salle-Lipa spikers. In tennis, Philippine Christian University turned back San Beda, 2-0, to bag the high school boys team title, while Imus Pilot-Cavite won the secondary girls and elementary girls team crowns in the Milo Little Olympics organized by CTW.

SMC ALL STARS
The SMC All Stars which include Dondon Ampalayo (right) bring cheers to indigent patients of the Bago City Hospital during the team's recent tour in Negros Occidental.

UAP cagers nip USJ-R, gain Big 8

GAMES TODAY (*FEU Gym*)
2 p.m.—San Sebastian vs UV-SBC winner
4 p.m.—St. Francis vs UAP

UNIVERSITY of Assumption-Pampanga overcame horrendous freethrow shooting and a double-digit deficit in the fourth quarter to pull off a thrilling 82-81 win over University of San Jose-Recolletos yesterday in the "Sweet 16" action of the Champions' League at the FEU gym.

Jayson Mendoza sank the marginal basket with four seconds to play and Marvin Yambao picked up his seventh steal with a second left to preserve the victory.

"Thank God he was not fouled," said UAP coach Alexis Gonzales referring to Mendoza's winning play.

The Pelicans missed 14 of their 18 foul shots in the last period, including their last five. They trailed 57-67 early in the fourth.

Waiting for UAP in the Big Eight is the top favorite St. Francis of Assissi, a 62-55 winner over Adamson in the Sweet 16 opener.

San Beda and Cebu champion University of Visayas are disputing the last Big Eight berth with the winner facing San Sebastian today.

Scores:

UAP 82—Yambao 16, Duyag 15, Ruiz 14, Bognot 12, Mendoza 8, Dizon 7, Velrio 3, Sinque 2, Magpayo 2, Bangal 2, Galura 1, Vergara 0.

USJ-R 81—Saladaga 25, Larong 21, Arellano 11, Justiniani 8, Bensi 6, Allawan 4, Calinawan 2, Betanio 2, Gabas 2, Arpay 0.

Quarters: 16-15, 36-42, 57-61, 82-81

Grateful Gerard

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE LAST time Gerard Cantada was in the limelight was two years ago. The former junior golf standout was crowding the leaders of the Philippine Open at Wack Wack until a little miscue in the homestretch derailed what could have been the biggest upset since the RP Open's birth in 1913. Gerard eventually placed fourth.

To this day, he remembers that with fondness.

It was indeed a brilliant finish for Gerard, who wasn't really considered a professional in the strictest sense of the word when he joined the 2001 RP Open.

Some months back before the 2001 RP Open began, Gerard turned pro. But he did not actually practice his profession to the fullest. He was called a pro simply because he made teaching the game his livelihood. Teaching pro they call it in golf lingo. The 86th RP Open, principally sponsored then by San Miguel Beer and Casino Filipino, was Gerard's baptism of fire as a pro after spending a colorful stint as a junior golfer and a national player.

"I didn't expect this great finish," said Gerard then, humility as usual painted all over his face. "I just said to myself from the very start that all I had to do here was have fun. Winning, or even finishing well, should only be secondary."

As it turned out, he wasn't only having fun, he was also giving the favorites a run for the money.

But notwithstanding the fun side of it, Gerard made the biggest statement after the tournament.

For, right after the 2001 RP Open, the nephew of the late Joe Cantada, who to me is still the greatest sportscaster that ever roamed this side of the globe, did a role more heroic than man's invention of the popcorn. Gerard donated half of his fourth-place earnings to the victims that year of the Mayon Volcano eruption. That was a hefty sum of no less than P200,000. And get this: The remaining P200,000 he used it to finance the jungolfers' trip to the Jack Newton Golf Tournament in Cessnock, Australia's equivalent of Bordeaux, the wine capital of France.

What a guy.

Just last Saturday at the Riviera Golf & Country Club in Silang, Cavite, Gerard did another admirable act that should be grist for family conversation at the breakfast table. Right after winning the U-Bix Riviera National Pro-Am with his amateur partner, the 22-year-old JR Tanpinco, Gerard donated a large chunk of his first-prize purse of P165,840 to his sister, Therese.

"She paid for our entry fees and other expenses for the tournament and so, she becomes my automatic beneficiary," said Gerard. "I hope my *pabaon* (pocket money) to her would make wonders when she finally competes next month in the Vietnam SEA Games."

Therese has been a consistent member of the national shooting team to both the SEA and Asian Games events. In Vietnam next month, Therese is a mainstay in the air pistol 177 team event and individual sports pistol .22 caliber event.

"I could poke jokes at anyone in the family, except Therese," once joked Edgardo "Boy" Cantada, Therese's father who is himself a dyed-in-the-wool sportsman who once coached the San Sebastian Stags and became manager of many national basketball teams.

Eight years ago, Gerard, now 26, finished second in the same Pro-Am held at Fort Bonifacio, the tournament's home since 1958 until the Fort Bonifacio course gave way to high-rise buildings in 1997 in the name of industrialization. Gerard was then the amateur partner of the now-retired Rudy Labares.

"That is why this victory, I also dedicate to Tito Rudy (Labares)," said Gerard. "He gave me the chance to learn the rudiments of Pro-Am play. For that, I am eternally grateful to him."

You know a real winner when you see one. He lists gratitude as the highest virtue on Earth.

***

FASTBREAK. The prestige of the Fil-Am Golf Championship is such that it's again overflowing with entries. So many applicants have been turned down already for the event set Dec. 1-6 at the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay. Cheers to Anthony de Leon, Freddie "Primo" Mendoza and Nanette Filler for their exceptional brand of leadership, especially in the area of handling the roster of entries. The tournament's world-class tradition has been the time-tested come-on of the Fil-Am, which draws no less than 750 golfers year in and year out. The teams come from our Asian neighbors and as far as the United States and Canada. Here's a glass each to Anthony, Primo Freddie and Nanette. Nostravil

Don Bosco Makati rules taekwondo invitational

FIGHTERS from the Don Bosco Makati Taekwondo Association captured 28 golds and as many silvers to cop the overall crown in the 2nd Don Bosco Invitational Taekwondo Cup recently at the Don Bosco Technical Institute Gymnasium in Makati City.

The overpowering show by the Don Bosco jins put to the shade the 14-gold, 11-silver harvest of runner-up Lourdes School of Quezon City in the championships.

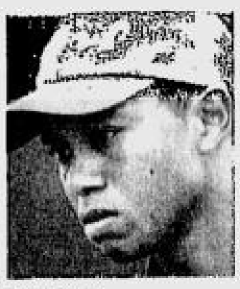
OB Montessori College Greenhills finished third with a 6-9 (gold-silver) card, and St. Theresa's College QC fourth with 5-5.

Tournament organizers, led by Dr. Manolo "Noli" Gabriel, a member of the national coaching staff of the Philippine Taekwondo Association (PTA), and parents of participants set divisions by gender, height and belt category.

Gold medalists (Don Bosco): Paolo Angeles, Alexandra Avinante, Jay Silva, Paolo Cipriano, Gianna Flaminiano, Luigi Dollosa, Juancho Mendoza, Rebecca Pascual, Pauline Therese Angeles, Jason Lim, Jeffrey Arboleda, Rafael Diego, Miguel del Pena, Christian Capiral, Darryl Dorio, Victorino Alopijan, Justin de Leon, Wilson Durno, Mark Angelo Laylo, Judith Erick de Leon, Benigno Roco, Mark Frigillana, Patrick Minguillan, Francis Concepcion, Josh Ong, Ken Castrodes, Oliver Picache, and Aaron Daniel Villamarin.

Silver medalists: Arsenio Lacson III, Rolando Mendoza, Alvin Lachica, Sean Silva, Nico Flaminiano, JC Chiong, Kristine Lopez, John Eric Lopez, Juan Miguel Manzano, Ryan Gonzales, Erwin Mataganas, Angelica Flaminiano, Julio Estaniel, Tristan Avelino, Seiji Maling, Havey Gonzales, Vanessa Ring, John Masiglat, Elan Cipriano, Karl Nicolo del Cruz, Kevin Maralag, Stephen Encarnacion, Ryan Jarque, Sean Lat, Jose Enrico Luna, Donald Tablizo, Tomi Nagranda, and Rosella Fatima Jopia.

Woods, pals draw International team



WOODS

GEORGE, South Africa—Tiger Woods never faced more pressure over one putt. Ernie Els couldn't stop his legs from shaking.

The best two players in the world found themselves in a sudden-death playoff Sunday at the Presidents Cup following a stunning comeback by the Americans.

Under excruciating pressure, each made their putts on the third extra hole as teammates, families and caddies all huddled on hills surrounding the green, all nervously watching a heart-stopping scene.

When it finally ended, the only thing missing was a winner.

As darkness gathered over the Links Course at Fancourt, the captains decided they had seen enough—and called it a draw.

"I have never seen two teams that played harder or played better," United States captain Jack Nicklaus said.

The defending champion usually retains the cup when the matches end in a draw.

Nicklaus and Gary Player agreed that both teams should share the cup, but only after a chaotic ending to an exquisite day.

First, the International team grudgingly accepted a draw until it was told that the United States—as defending champion—would retain the cup.

Player gathered his troops on one end of the green, Nicklaus took his to the other.

About the time the International team said it wanted to return Monday to finish the playoff, the Americans countered with an offer to share the cup. *AP*

Deal.

"I think it's the perfect decision," Woods said. "To have two guys decide the fate of the whole team in extra holes like that, I don't think any of the sides felt comfortable with that to begin with. And we'd like to decide it as a team." *AP*

Meg trips Annika

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida—Meg Mallon outplayed Annika Sorenstam over the final nine holes Sunday and took advantage of a rare hiccup by the world's best female player to beat her by one stroke in the season-ending ADT Championship.

That Mallon, a three-time major winner, with one of the more impressive resumés in the sport, could make five birdies over the back nine and put together a closing round of 5-under-par 67 wasn't a shock.

Mallon, 40, earned her first win of the season, the 15th of her career, and a $215,000 check.

Cristie Kerr shot 71 and finished in third, with a score of 3-under 285. Two strokes behind her was Beth Daniel (72). Se Ri Pak (73) finished at 288 and clinched the Vare Trophy, given to the player with the lowest scoring average among those who play at least 70 rounds.

Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin fired a 79 and ended up in a tie at 303. She won $10,800. *AP*

9-BALL OPEN

Bata, Django head RP bid

PUYAT

FILIPINO aces Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante will spearhead the country's bid in the 1st Philippine Open and Invitational 9-Ball Championship which kicks off tomorrow (Nov. 26) at the Octagon Hall, 4th level of the Robinsons Galleria in Mandaluyong City.

Reyes, Bustamante, along with Canada-based Alex Pagulayan are at the vanguard of a 42-man Philippine squad that also includes Frennie Reyes, Bata's 19-year-old son who is making his debut as a pro.

Six other former world champions are seeing action in the event that drew a record 76 players from 10 countries.

They are Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, Earl Strickland of the United States, Mika Immonen of Finland, Kunihiko Takahashi of Japan, Ralf Souquet of Germany and Fong Pang Chao of Chinese Taipei.

The event, presented by Puyat Sports headed by sportsman-businessman Aristeo "Putch" Puyat and ABS-CBN, will be televised live on Channel 23 starting at 2 p.m. tomorrow.

Sixty unseeded entries, including Fong, are set to vie in the elimination round. The top 16 finishers then advance to the Stage 2 on Thursday to join the 16 seeded players.

Also expected to perform well are Rodney Morris of the United States, Marcus Chamat of Sweden, Park Shin Young and Jeong Young Hwa of South Korea, Yang Ching Shun and Hsia Hui Kai of Chinese Taipei and Satoshi Kawabata of Japan.

The champion receives $20,000 while the second placer gets $10,000. Third to fourth placers earn $5,000 each, fifth to eight placers win $2,000 each, ninth to 16th placers ($1,000) and 17th to 32nd ($500).

Others local bets joining the meet are Lee Van Corteza, Reynaldo Grandea, Warren Kiamko, Antonio Lining, Marlon Manalo, James Ortega, Felipe Tauro Jr. and Emilio Villariza.

With a report from Marlon Bernardino, contributor

REYES

PDI PHOTO

France wins Cup

MOSCOW—France beat the United States on Sunday to win the Fed Cup for only the second time in history after Amelie Mauresmo routed Meghann Shaughnessy, while Martina Navratilova extended her perfect match record in the competition to 39-0 with a consolation doubles win for the Americans.

Mauresmo defeated Shaughnessy, 6-2, 6-1, to give the French an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the best-of-five finals. Navratilova and Lisa Raymond overcame Emilie Loit and Stephanie Cohen-Aloro, 6-4, 6-0, in the doubles match after Loit dispatched Alexandra Stevenson, 6-4, 6-2, to make it 4-0.

NBA results

Milwaukee 82, Toronto 62; New Orleans 81, Detroit 80; Golden State 78, Portland 72; Sacramento 110, Chicago 99; Seattle 88, Washington 85; LA Lakers 121, Memphis 89. *Reuters*

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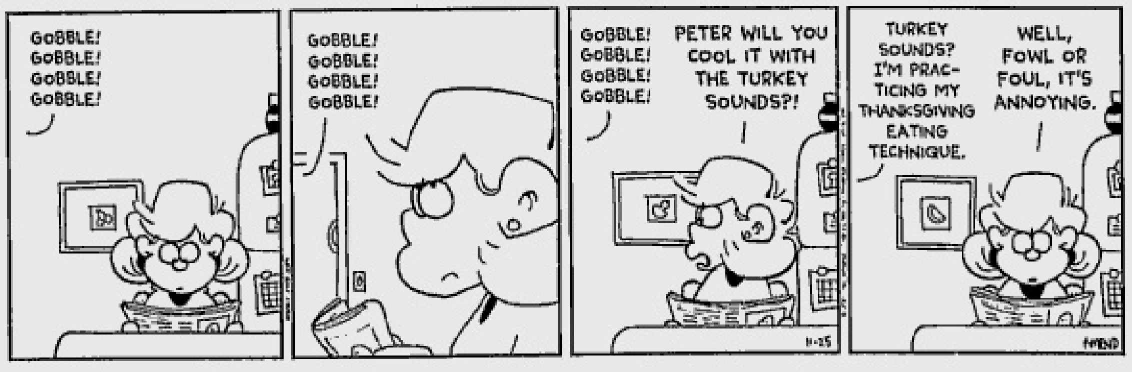
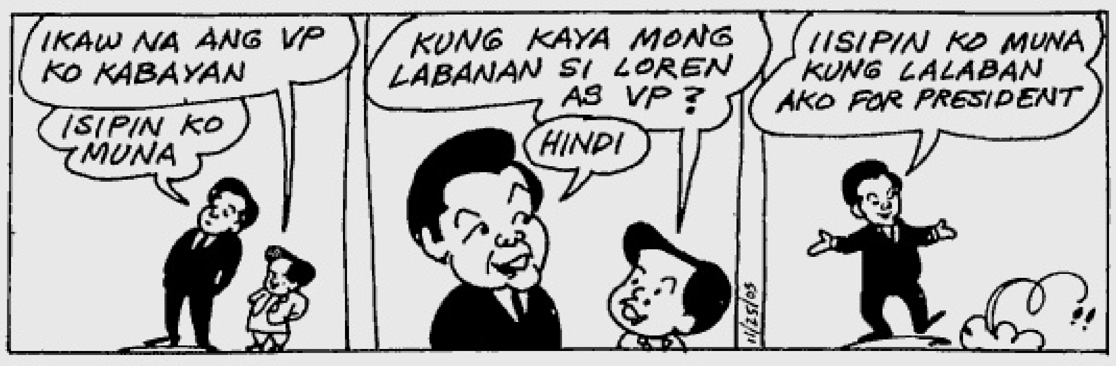
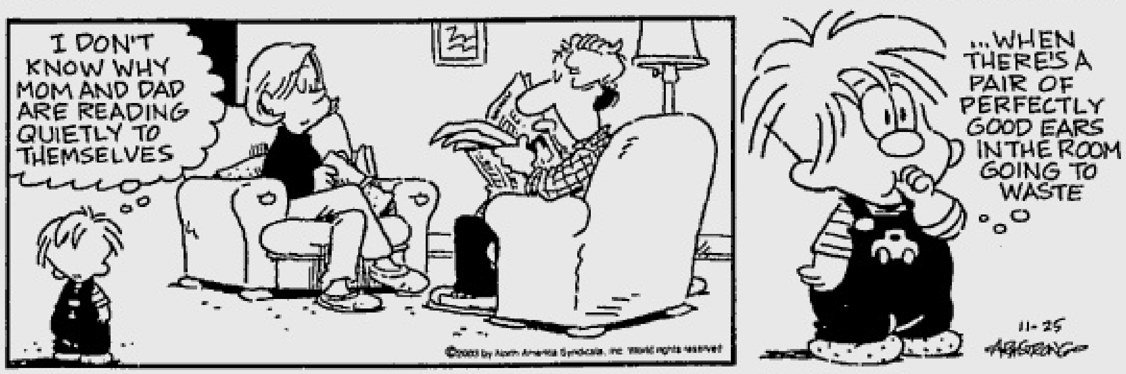

GOBBLE! GOBBLE! GOBBLE! GOBBLE!
GOBBLE! GOBBLE! GOBBLE! GOBBLE!
GOBBLE! GOBBLE! GOBBLE! GOBBLE!
PETER WILL YOU COOL IT WITH THE TURKEY SOUNDS?!
TURKEY SOUNDS? I'M PRACTICING MY THANKSGIVING EATING TECHNIQUE.
WELL, FOWL OR FOUL, IT'S ANNOYING.
11-25
AMEND

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


IKAW NA ANG VP KO KABAYAN
ISIPIN KO MUNA
KUNG KAYA MONG LABANAN SI LOREN AS VP ?
HINDI
IISIPIN KO MUNA KUNG LALABAN AKO FOR PRESIDENT
11/25/03

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I DON'T KNOW WHY MOM AND DAD ARE READING QUIETLY TO THEMSELVES
...WHEN THERE'S A PAIR OF PERFECTLY GOOD EARS IN THE ROOM GOING TO WASTE
11-25
ARMSTRONG
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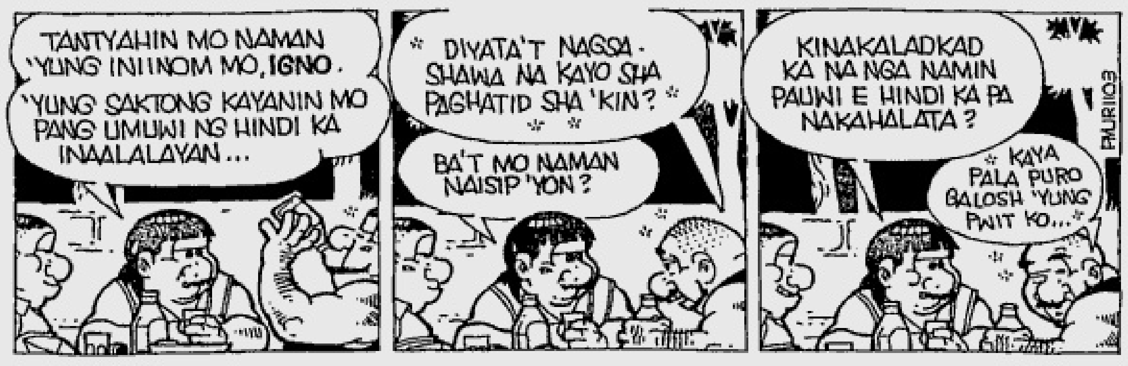
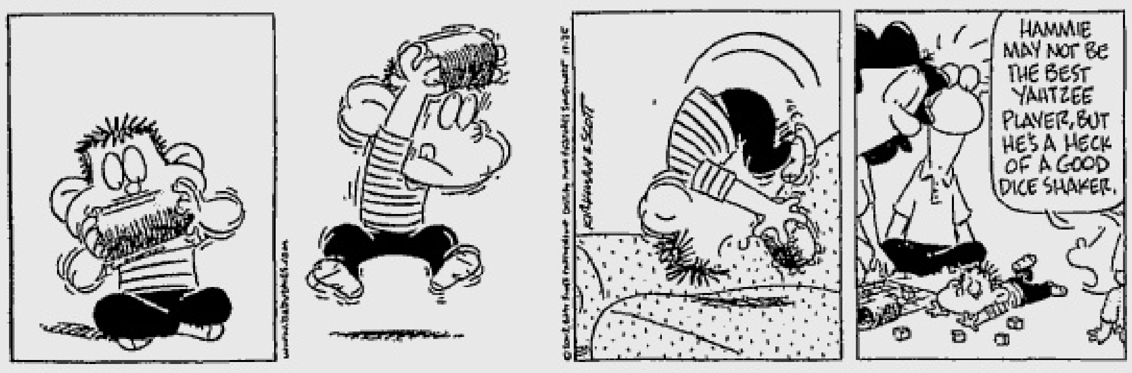
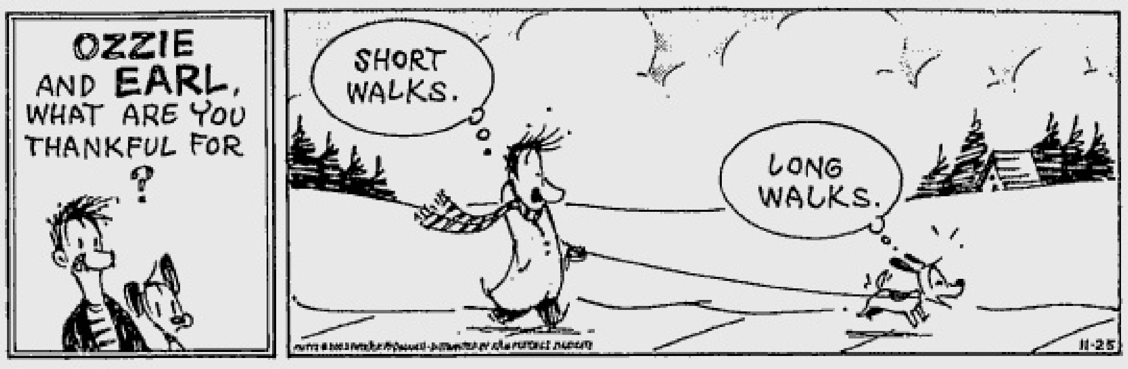
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


TANTYAHIN MO NAMAN 'YUNG INIINOM MO, IGNO.
'YUNG SAKTONG KAYANIN MO PANG UMUWI NG HINDI KA INAALALAYAN...
DIYATA'T NAGSA-SHAWA NA KAYO SHA PAGHATID SHA 'KIN?
BA'T MO NAMAN NAISIP 'YON?
KINAKALADKAD KA NA NGA NAMIN PAUWI E HINDI KA PA NAKAHALATA?
KAYA PALA PURO GALOSH 'YUNG PWIT KO...
PAURI103

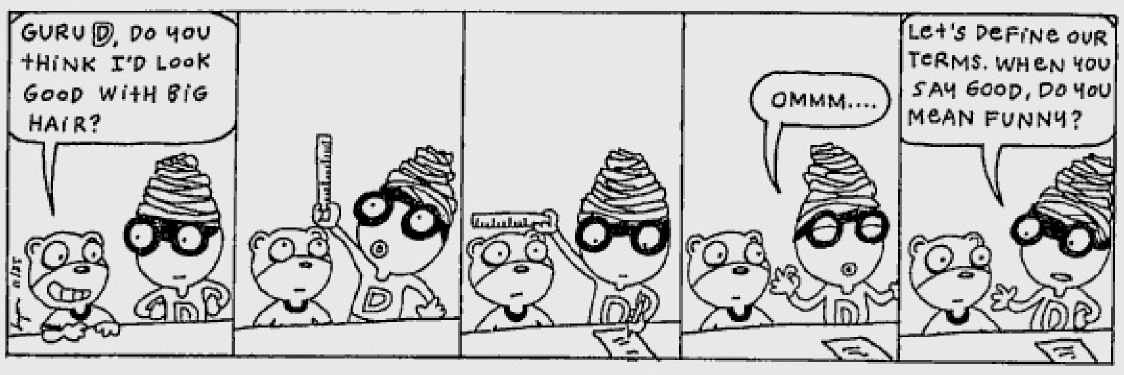
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


HAMMIE MAY NOT BE THE BEST YAHTZEE PLAYER, BUT HE'S A HECK OF A GOOD DICE SHAKER.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

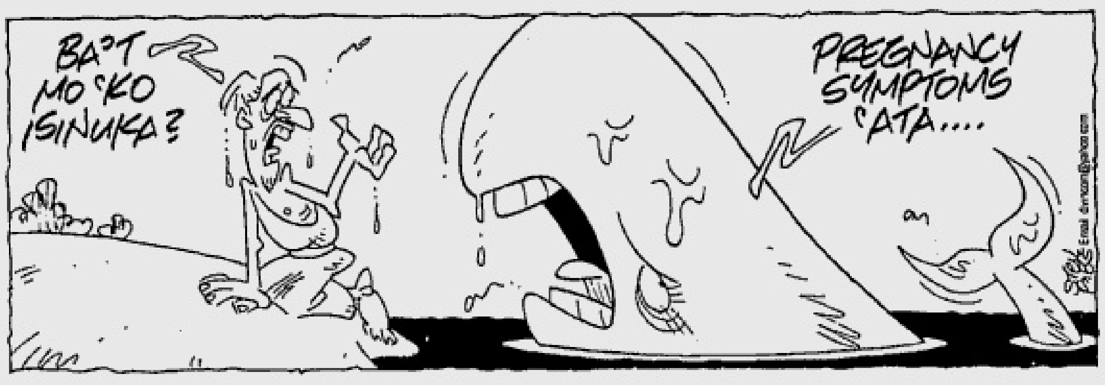
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OZZIE AND EARL, WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR ?
SHORT WALKS.
LONG WALKS.
11-25

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


GURU D, DO YOU THINK I'D LOOK GOOD WITH BIG HAIR?
OMMM....
LET'S DEFINE OUR TERMS. WHEN YOU SAY GOOD, DO YOU MEAN FUNNY?

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


BA'T MO'KO ISINUKA?
PREGNANCY SYMPTOMS 'ATA....

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You become excellent at whatever you do. You are thorough and accomplished in many areas because you want to succeed and achieve. You have dignity and poise, and others respect you. You have a distinct sense of what is right and wrong. Your focus this year is on partnerships, social occasions and marriage.

Birthdate of: Ricardo Montalban, actor; Jill Hennessy, actress; John Larroquette, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Bosses, parents and VIPs surprise you with pleasant but unexpected comments Even though you're caught off-guard, you're left with a smile on your face.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is the perfect day to study something different and unusual. You see now that learning is fun, and you wish you had more time to do it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Expect to be romantically attracted to someone unusual today. It might be completely harmless; nevertheless, it can certainly get your juices flowing. You feel young again!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a good day for social occasions. You'll enjoy meeting all kinds of people. In fact, characters, in particular, will attract you (and perhaps vice versa).

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You can make pleasant advances and reforms at work today. Either you or somebody else will figure out how to build a better mousetrap. (Now you can catch smarter mice.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Love at first sight is possible today. However, it will likely be short-lived. Nevertheless, it will definitely be something memorable and worthy of a diary entry.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might buy something unusual—perhaps quite modern or avant-garde—for your home or a family member today. You feel unusually bold and experimental. (This excites you.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Because you show a fascinating, different side of your personality today, you will likely attract new friends. Needless to say, these friends will be a bit different too!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might give something unusual to someone today. Or you might buy something unusual for yourself. Unexpected purchases plus bonus earnings are possible now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're prepared to give your friend or lover more freedom today. You see now that there is no room for possessiveness and jealousy in a healthy, trusting relationship.

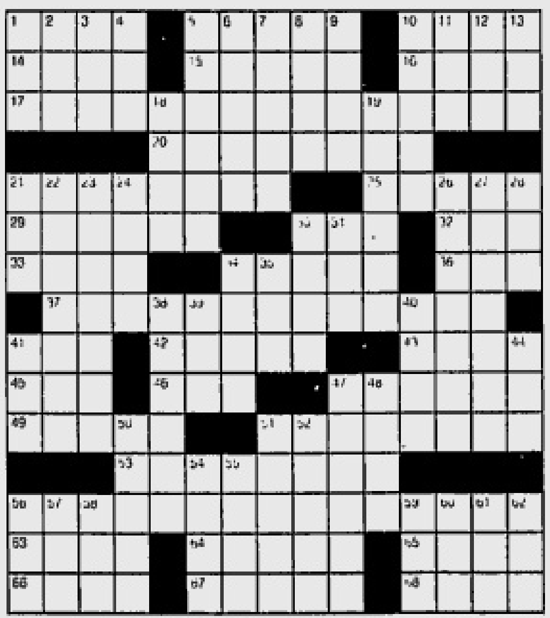
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Bizarre dealings with the government, large corporations and institutions (and possibly the police) could take place today. It's really just a bit of excitement in your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a great day to party with friends. Everybody finds you interesting and stimulating now. You feel urbane, witty and sophisticated. (Try to avoid boring people.)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Fleetwood Mac hit
5 Idolater
10 Fifths of a fin
14 Poems of praise
15 Absinthe flavoring
16 "Chariots of __"
17 Completely
20 Revulsion
21 Examines in minute detail
25 Foe
29 Father's brothers
30 19th hole
32 Portuguese saint
33 Italian seaport
34 Churchill's gesture
36 T. Turner channel
37 Oscar-winning song
41 Tennis shot
42 Throws down the gauntlet
43 Southern constellation
45 WSW opp.
46 Globe
47 Concrete ingredient
49 Passover feast
51 Balcony railings
53 When tots are tucked in
56 Salesman's come-on?
63 Joie de vivre
64 __ Ste. Marie
65 "A Death in the Family" author
66 Kicked the bucket
67 Melville book
68 Carryall bag

DOWN
1 Father's boy
2 Bother
3 Part of AARP
4 Fire residue
5 Stampedes
6 Uneasy feeling
7 Unmated sows
8 On the Caspian
9 Highland loch
10 Frequently
11 Govt. med. research agcy.
12 Historic period
13 Bigwig in D.C.
18 __ fixe
19 Buffet tray warmer
21 Name
22 Firing on all cylinders
23 Wrote down
24 Mistake
26 Runaway
27 Posse pursuit
28 Distant
30 Auction offers
31 In the past
34 Action word
35 Told you so!
38 Loved
39 __-es-Salaam
40 Moist
41 "__ Miserables"
44 Ave. crossers
47 Dream up
48 Effortless
50 Safe investment
51 Centerfold
52 Plenty of
54 Archaic verb form
55 1986 PGA champion Bob
56 British letter
57 New Haven alum
58 __ Dawn Chong
59 Gymnast's cushion
60 Sense of self
61 New Jersey cager
62 Three-way intersection



By Jim Page
New York, NY

11/25/03

Monday's Puzzle Solved

G	L	I	B	■	B	A	T	H	■	L	A	S	S	O
R	O	D	E	■	E	L	B	A	■	I	L	I	A	D
O	B	O	E	■	M	O	A	T	■	L	E	D	G	E
G	O	L	F	C	O	U	R	S	E	A	R	E	A	S
■	■	■	■	H	A	D	■	■	A	C	T	■	■	■
P	E	C	T	I	N	■	H	I	S	S	■	A	T	M
A	V	I	A	N	■	A	O	N	E	■	A	S	I	A
G	O	T	R	A	F	F	I	C	L	I	G	H	T	S
E	K	E	S	■	L	A	S	H	■	R	H	E	A	S
R	E	D	■	C	A	R	T	■	D	I	A	N	N	E
■	■	■	L	E	I	■	■	P	A	S	■	■	■	■
P	E	A	O	R	L	I	M	E	S	H	A	D	E	S
R	A	B	B	I	■	M	O	T	H	■	L	U	C	K
I	S	L	E	S	■	P	O	R	E	■	A	C	H	E
G	E	E	S	E	■	S	T	I	R	■	S	T	O	W

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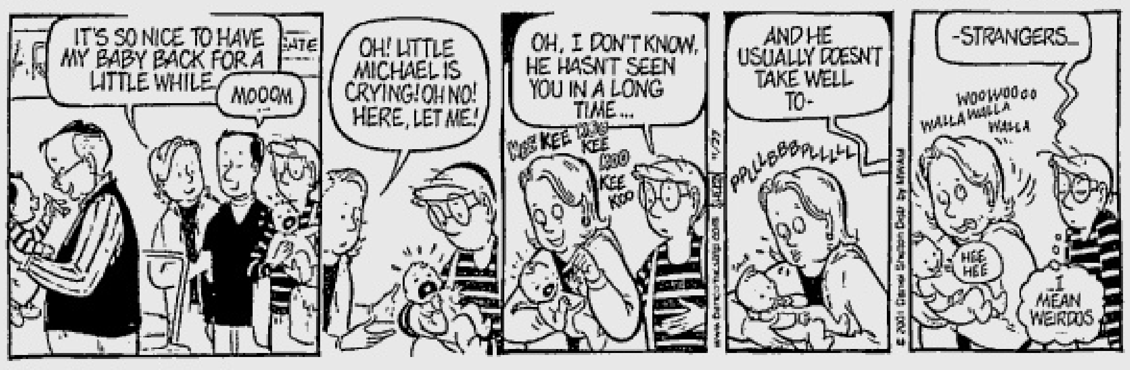
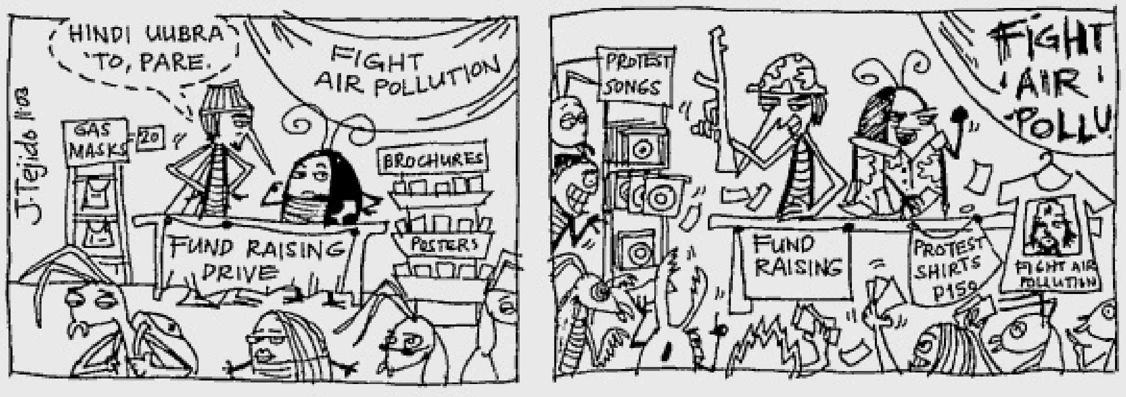
11/25/03

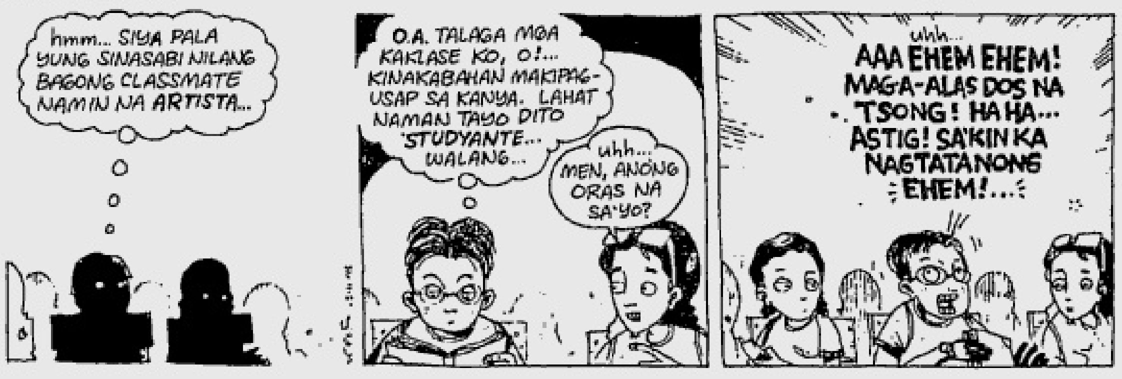
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


IT'S SO NICE TO HAVE MY BABY BACK FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
MOOOM
OH! LITTLE MICHAEL IS CRYING! OH NO! HERE, LET ME!
OH, I DON'T KNOW. HE HASN'T SEEN YOU IN A LONG TIME...
KEE KEE KEE KOO
AND HE USUALLY DOESN'T TAKE WELL TO-
PPLLLBBBPLLLL
-STRANGERS...
WOOWOOOO WALLA WALLA WALLA
HEE HEE
...I MEAN WEIRDOS

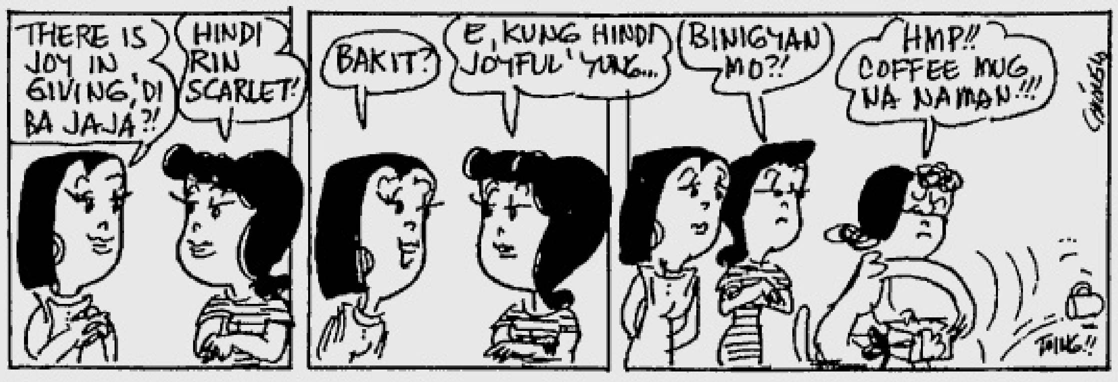
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HINDI UUBRA 'TO, PARE.
FIGHT AIR POLLUTION
GAS MASKS
20
BROCHURES
FUND RAISING DRIVE
POSTERS
J.Tejido 11/03
PROTEST SONGS
FIGHT AIR POLLU
FUND RAISING
PROTEST SHIRTS P150
FIGHT AIR POLLUTION

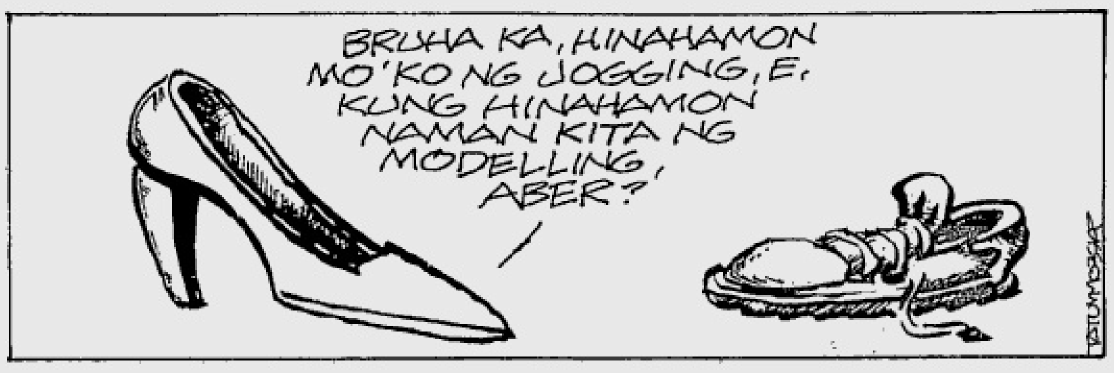
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


hmm... SIYA PALA YUNG SINASABI NILANG BAGONG CLASSMATE NAMIN NA ARTISTA...
O.A. TALAGA MGA KAKLASE KO, O!... KINAKABAHAN MAKIPAG-USAP SA KANYA. LAHAT NAMAN TAYO DITO 'STUDYANTE... WALANG...
uhh... MEN, ANONG ORAS NA SA'YO?
uhh...
AAA EHEM EHEM! MAGA-ALAS DOS NA TSONG! HA HA... ASTIG! SA'KIN KA NAGTATANONG EHEM!...

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


THERE IS JOY IN GIVING, DI BA JAJA?!
HINDI RIN SCARLET!
BAKIT?
E, KUNG HINDI 'JOYFUL' YUNG...
BINIGYAN MO?!
HMP!! COFFEE MUG NA NAMAN!!!
THUNG!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BRUHA KA, HINAHAMON MO'KO NG JOGGING, E, KUNG HINAHAMON NAMAN KITA NG MODELLING, ABER?

Cesar: I hope my son still knows me

From page A26

“That would only cause trouble,” he said. “I am not the type to cause trouble.”

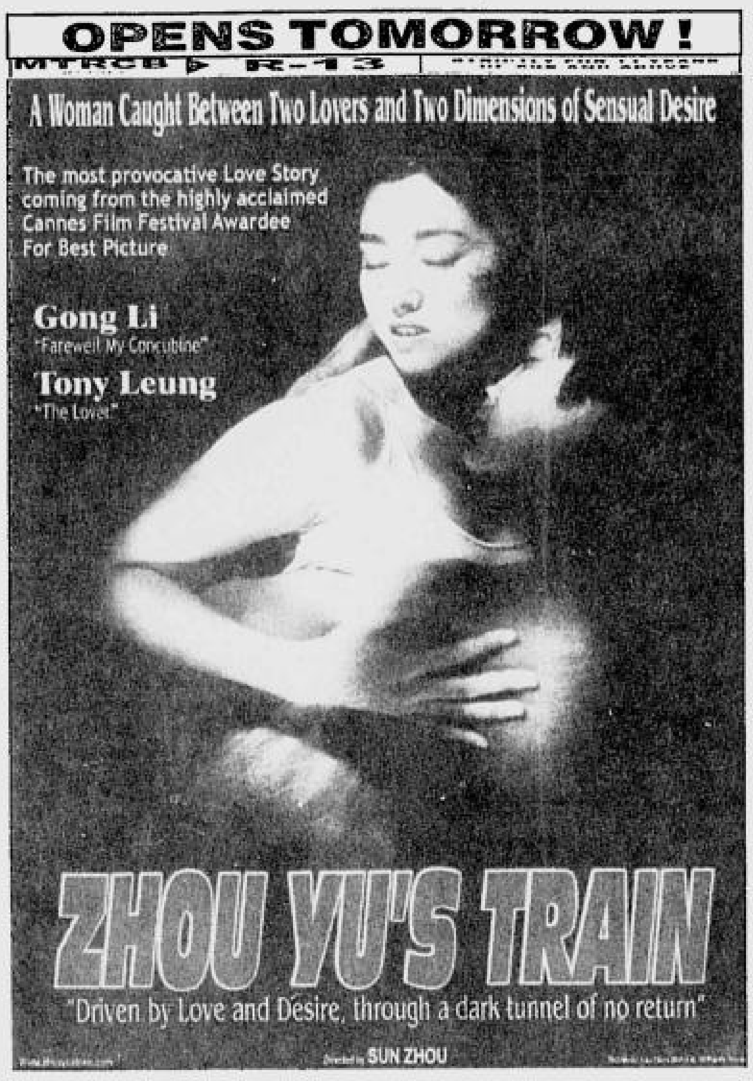
Cesar is married to actress Sunshine Cruz. They have a daughter, Angelina Isabel, 2. The actor's children by his late first wife, Marilyn, live with the couple. The eldest is Angela, 21, and Angelo, 18.

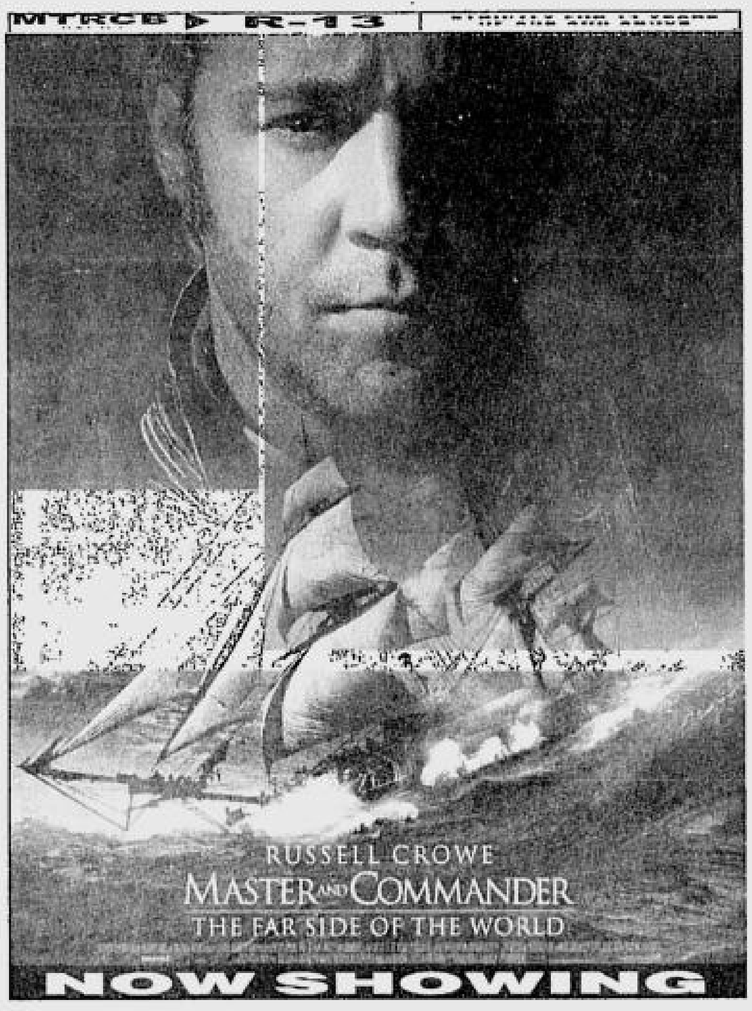
Widely admired in the industry for his principles, Cesar has also been firm in choosing which consumer products he would endorse. Three years ago, he turned down an endorsement contract for a strong beer that would have brought him at least P6 million—“because I don't drink and I don't want to be

CESAR/A24

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SEX SCANDAL
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	LIBERATED
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	SEX SCANDAL
CINEMA-3	MR. SUAVE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DARK BLUE
CINEMA-6	MAPANUKSO
CINEMA-7	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-8	LIBERATED
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SCARY MOVIE 3
CINEMA-12	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-14	WRONG TURN
CINEMA-15	MR. SUAVE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-1	MR. SUAVE
CINEMA-2	UPTOWN GIRLS
CINEMA-4	IDENTITY
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA


OPENS TOMORROW!
MTRCB R-13
A Woman Caught Between Two Lovers and Two Dimensions of Sensual Desire
The most provocative Love Story coming from the highly acclaimed Cannes Film Festival Awardee For Best Picture
Gong Li
"Farewell My Concubine"
Tony Leung
"The Lover"
ZHOU YU'S TRAIN
"Driven by Love and Desire, through a dark tunnel of no return"
Directed by SUN ZHOU


MTRCB R-13
RUSSELL CROWE
MASTER AND COMMANDER
THE FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD
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STARMAX International and YELCOR Productions
Eddie Garcia
Tirso Cruz III Pinky de Leon and Miss Dina Bonnevie
Cesar Montano
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OPENS TOMORROW!
PREMIERE NIGHT at 6 SM Megamall Cinemas on Nov. 25 7:30 pm.
DIRECTED BY
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Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
SMART

ALL DIGITAL SOUND AYALA CINEMAS PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 MASTER AND COMMANDER	1 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	ArtFilm 1 MONSOON WEDDING 12 40 2 45 4 50, 6 55, 9 00	GUARANTEED SEATS THX - SCARY MOVIE 3 12 25, 2 35 4 45 6 55, 9 05, 11 15	THX 1 SCARY MOVIE 3
2 SCARY MOVIE 3	2 MASTER AND COMMANDER	2 MASTER AND COMMANDER 12 45 3 40 6 35 9 30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 MASTER AND COMMANDER 2 45 5 40 8 35 11 30	2 MR. SUAVE
3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	THX GUARANTEED SEATS MASTER & COMMANDER 1 30 4 30, 7 30 10 30	Onstage REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 28, 29, 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN 1 10 3 30 5 50 8 10 10 30	3 MASTER AND COMMANDER
4 MR. SUAVE	4 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 MR. SUAVE 12 30 2 50, 5 10, 7 30, 9 50	4 MASTER AND COMMANDER
	5 WRONG TURN		GUARANTEED SEATS MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 1 00, 3 35, 6 10, 8 45, 11 20	5 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
	6 SCARY MOVIE 3			
	7 DRUMLINE			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting **SURESEATS GB3** or **SURESEATS G4** and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA
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2 (SDDS) MATRIX REVOLUTION
3 (DTS) MASTER & COMMANDER
4 GOLD (DTS/ES) MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX) MASTER & COMMANDER
6 GOLD (SDDS) MASTER & COMMANDER
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) SCARY MOVIE-3
8 MR. SUAVE
9 MR. SUAVE
10 WISHER

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2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

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(Pasay) tel 833.3290 ; 833.3274
1 MR. SUAVE
2 MASTER & COMMANDER
3 SEX SCANDAL

starmall Movies
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(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 MATRIX REVOLUTION
2 MR. SUAVE
3 SEX SCANDAL
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) MASTER & COMMANDER
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1 MR. SUAVE
2 MAPANUKSO

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MASTER & COMMANDER

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(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
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2 MY BOSS DAUGTHER

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tel 930.9515
1
2
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21
1 MR. SUAVE
2
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

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Gotesco City
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1 (SDDS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 SEX SCANDAL
6 MR. SUAVE
7 (DTS) MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8 (SDDS) SCARY MOVIE-3
9 (DOLBY) MASTER & COMMANDER

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2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364-3781
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2 MR. SUAVE
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4 (SDDS) MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE
6 (DOLBY) MASTER & COMMANDER
7 (DTS) SCARY MOVIE-3
8 LIBERATED
9 MAPANUKSO

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
1 SEX SCANDAL
2 (SDDS) WRONG TURN
3 (DTS) MR. SUAVE
4 (DOLBY) MASTER & COMMANDER
5 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 LIBERATED
2 MR. SUAVE
3 (DTS) MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 SEX SCANDAL
5 (SDDS) MASTER & COMMANDER

Universal
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1 RESERVE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 RESERVE

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(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson SEX SCANDAL
Lords SEX SCANDAL
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3 SEX SCANDAL
4 RESERVE

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2 SEX SCANDAL
3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 MR SUAVE
5 SCARY MOVIE-3

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(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
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(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 MR. SUAVE
2 SEX SCANDAL

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2 SEX SCANDAL
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) MASTER AND COMMANDER
4 (SDDS) MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 (DTS) SCARY MOVIE 3
6 INNER SENSES
7 WRONG TURN

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1 MAPANUKSO
2 MASTER & COMMANDER
3 (DTS) MR SUAVE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 UP TOWN GIRL
2 (DTS) MR. SUAVE
3 (DOLBY) MASTER & COMMANDER
4 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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1 MR. SUAVE
2 (DOLBY) MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 (DTS) MASTER & COMMANDER
4 UP TOWN GIRL

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 UNDERWORLD
2 MR. SUAVE
3 (DOLBY) MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 MR. SUAVE
2 LIBERATED
3 (DOLBY) THE PHONE
4 (DTS) MATRIX REVOLUTION

Magic Star Cinema
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1 (DOLBY) MATRIX REVOLUTION
2 (DTS) LIBERATED
3 MR SUAVE

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(Alabang) tel 850.1276
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2 LAGING SARIWA
3 (DTS) MAPANUKSO
4 INDECENT BEHAVIOR

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1 (DOLBY) MASTER & COMMANDER
2 MR. SUAVE
3 (DTS) MATRIX REVOLUTION
4 MAPANUKSO
5 THE POSSESSED

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2 MR. SUAVE
3

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2 MR. SUAVE
3 MATRIX REVOLUTION

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1 IDENTITY
2 MATRIX REVOLUTION
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 (DOLBY) MR SUAVE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 LIBERATED
2 MR. SUAVE
3

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
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Mandy Moore called my sister

From page A26

got stuck in the VHS player I bought at their shop. I had to talk in such a way that I would sound like my tongue got stuck! I demanded that they send somebody from their store to replace my player. I had a good laugh!

What are some of your favorites?

I adore **Bette Midler**. My fave movie is "Beaches." And I love my pet dog and two parrots.

Le Club wine fest

WINE connoisseurs and the glittering crowd have something to look forward to as the Le Club French Business Association of the Philippines, in cooperation with Auto France Philippines Inc., exclusive distributor of Peugeot cars in the country, celebrates Le Beaujolais Nouveau Wine Festival today at the NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City, 6:30 p.m. The festival, the biggest social event of the local French business community, signals the harvest of the finest young red wine in the east central French region of Burgundy.

This year's celebration, the 15th and the grandest edition so far, has a medieval Notre Dame de Paris theme based on **Victor Hugo's** novel. Actress **Chin-chin Gutierrez** will play the role of gypsy dancer Esmeralda in dazzling production numbers along with a cast of thespians re-enacting scenes from Hugo's 19th-century classic.

Guests will be treated to free-flowing young red wine and a grand assortment of cheese, cold cuts and delicacies flown in from France. In the raffle, some P800,000 worth of prizes will be given away. Two guests will win the Manila-Paris round-trip Air France ticket grand prize, with one of them getting the added treat of exploring the French countryside on board a Peugeot car for 17 days.

Tickets are P1,800 each. Call Le Club at 813-9005 for details.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

Cesar: I hope my son still knows me

From page A23

telling my son not to drink beer if I am endorsing the product."

"When that offer came," he recalled, "I was like, oh, my God! At that time, I would have endorsed even a safety pin just to make some money, but I still did not accept the endorsement for the beer brand."

It's the same case with cigarettes.

"I don't smoke, I don't even like the smell of smoke," he said. "I know cigarettes are bad for the health. I don't want to teach children how to smoke."

The wholesome image has paid off. Cesar is one of the hottest product endorsers today, pitching sardines on television and underwear on billboards.

He has also managed to become a Hollywood actor via "The Great Raid," directed by John Dahl, whose movie credits include "The Last Seduction" with Bill Pullman, "Rounders" with Matt Damon, John Malkovich and Edward Norton, "Joy Ride" with Leelee Sobieski, among others.

"I can say I am the first Filipino actor to penetrate Hollywood," said Cesar, who has signed up with Miramax for three movies. "I can't say that the contract would make me a lot of money. But it's the idea of being able to make a Hollywood movie."

The shooting of the "The Great Raid" lasted five months. But the filming of "Chavit" took seven months.

The Carlo J. Caparas movie based on the life of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson is the fourth true-life movie he has done so far. The others were "Waway," "Jose Rizal" and "The Great Raid."

Cesar said he does not believe everything that Chavit, nemesis of former President Joseph Estrada, told him about the politician's life.

"But I am not questioning his credibility," said Cesar last week during the press conference for "Chavit."

Cesar, 41, stars as the controversial Chavit.

"I talked to him (Chavit) at length before we started filming the movie," said Cesar. "I interviewed him and observed how he acted, his gestures. I asked him basic questions, the nitty gritty.

I believe in the man and admire him. He's very brave."

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Ali 1	MR. SUAVE
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Ali 3	MASTER AND COMMANDER
Ali 4	MATRIX REVOLUTION
Ali 5	SCARY MOVIE 3
Ali 6	LIBERATED
Ali 7	WRONG TURN
ARANETA COLISEUM	
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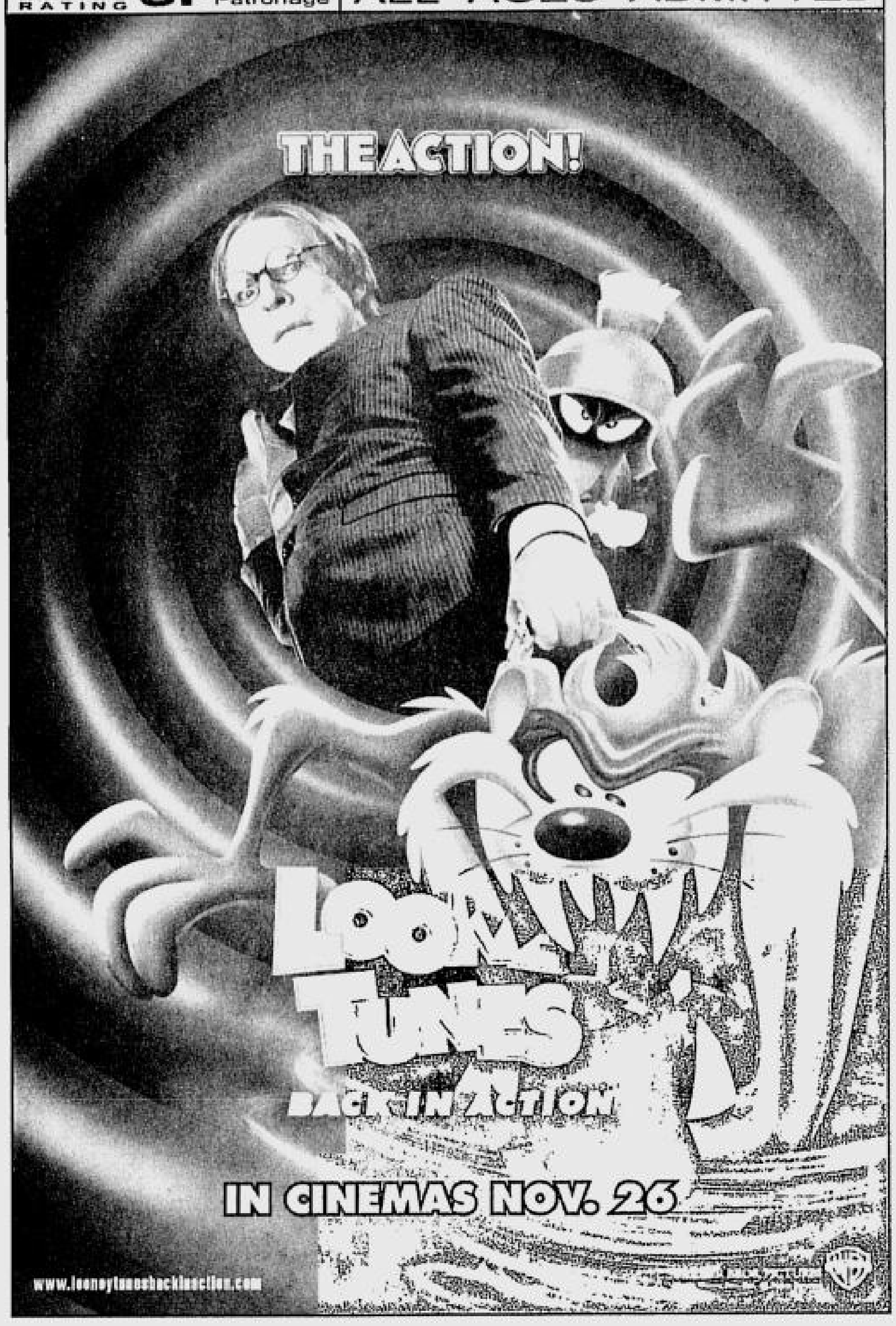

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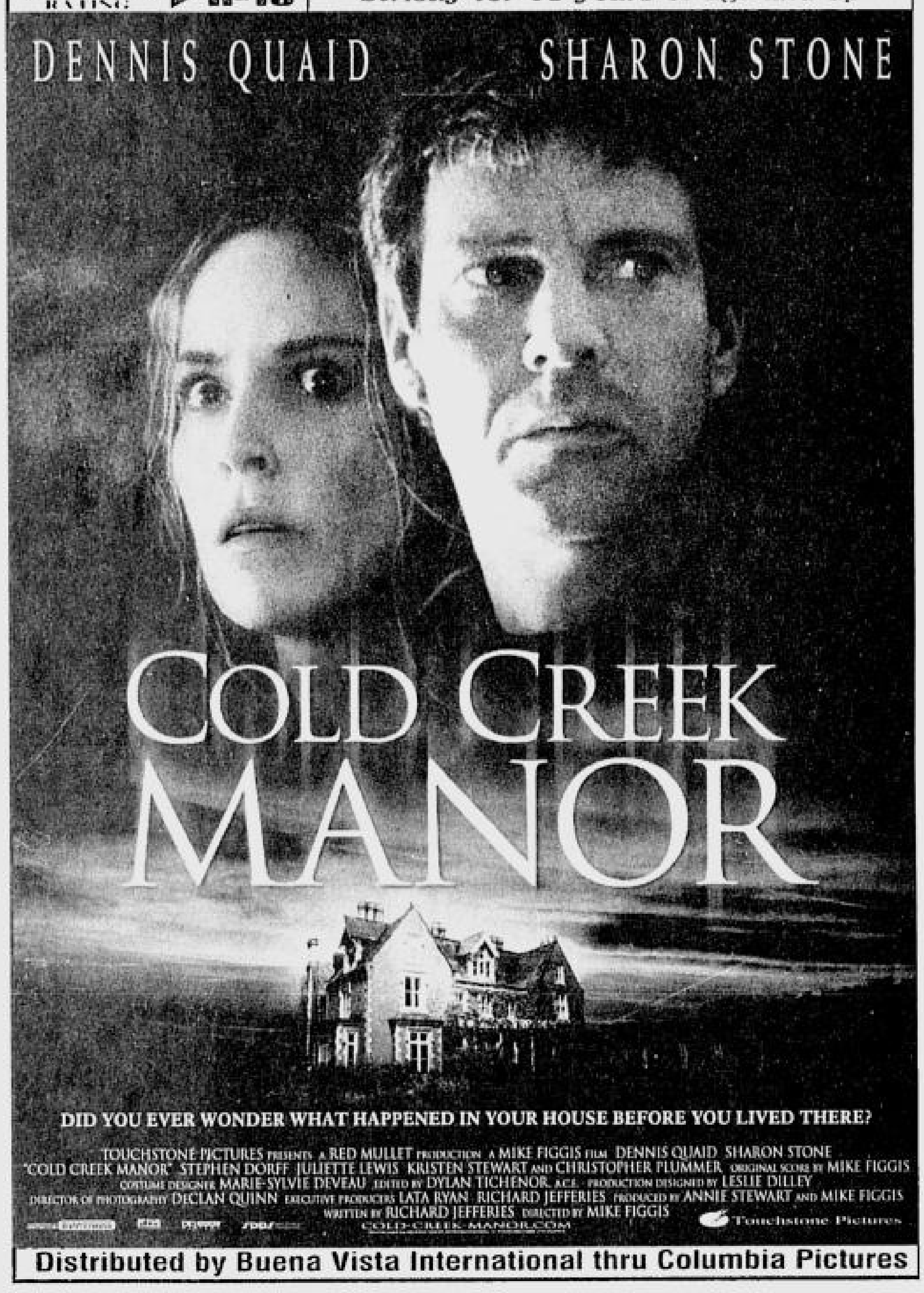

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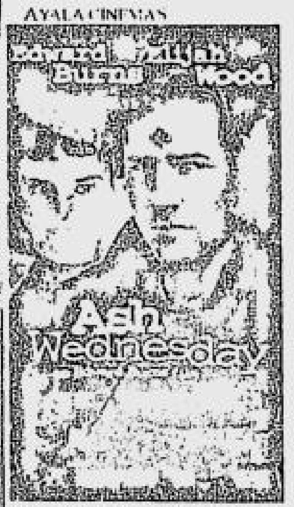

Elijah Wood Rosario Dawson
Edward Burns Oliver Platt
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Hells Kitchen, Ash Wednesday, 1980. Sean Sullivan (Elijah Wood) is killed in a vendetta. Three years later, Seans brother Francis (Edward Burns) receives word that Sean may be alive. But the truth isnt always what it seems in this neighborhood, where violence and betrayal are the local currency.
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Eight CRAZY Nights
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When extremely disgruntled small-town guy Davey Stone (voiced by Sandler) faces another holiday season in his New England hometown, he does what he always has - he screws up big and lands in jail. Davey's old basketball referee, Whitey, bails him out with the bright idea of putting Davey to work doing community service. But Davey turns his sentence into a daily disaster for Whitey and the whole town! After a few surprises - including the mysterious reason for Davey's bad attitude and the reappearance of a childhood sweetheart - Davey might find a reason or two to change his ways.
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Antithesis of the usual sitcom star

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN **Tony Shalhoub** won the 2003 Emmy for best lead actor in a sitcom, local viewers wondered what the big deal was about. After all, Shalhoub's show "Monk," was difficult to catch even on cable.

Not anymore, however: "Monk" is now being shown regularly on Star World (Tuesdays, 9 p.m.), so viewers here can watch the show on a regular basis, and see for themselves why its relatively unknown lead player demolished his stellar competition at the Emmys.

We caught the show last Nov. 11 and saw why the Emmy voters had given the trophy to Shalhoub: He's the antithesis of the usual sitcom star. Instead of being charming and rogue-ish, he's rather ordinary-looking, and plays a character who's sullen where other sitcom protagonists are charming and breezily funny.

The actor's ethnicity also works for him, because it adds to his unusual projection and appeal. Tony Shalhoub is definitely not yet another pea in the TV pod.

The character he plays in "Monk" is a detective who's a bundle of nerves and phobias. He's obsessive-compulsive, insists on absolute cleanliness in his surroundings, freaks out at the sight of a single speck of dust, and generally drives his few friends up the wall with his quirky ways. And yet, he's a brilliant detective who solves even the most difficult cases with such insight and panache that he makes Sherlock Holmes and **Agatha Christie** look like a pair of cub scouts.

The episode we watched had Shalhoub's character, Monk, absentmindedly entering a stranger's apartment. Instead of being slapped with a court case, he was merely ordered to enter a psychiatric facility for some tests.

Little did he know, however, that he would soon be sucked into a dangerous situation that could have him end up being declared hopelessly insane, and put away in an asylum for life!

What made him go from bad to absolute worst was his discovery of an unsolved murder in the psychiatric facility. His investigative genius soon made him notice heretofore unseen clues that suggested that the killer was none other than the asylum's head psychiatrist, the very same man who was assigned to treat Monk himself.

The second half of the episode was exciting because the killer used drugs to make Monk behave in a "crazy" way, so the detective's fate looked bleak, until he was helped by his loyal assistant.

Aside from the sleuthing and psychological twists and turns, the episode was enlivened by the performances of gifted character actors playing the other mental patients in the asylum.

> Outstanding character actors can now dream of landing lead roles in their own shows

Despite these colorful portrayals, however, Monk's character held center stage throughout the episode, affirming Shalhoub's idiosyncratic activity and thespic expertise.

Shalhoub's success is good news for other outstanding character actors, who can now dream of landing lead roles in their own shows, instead of forever playing second fiddle to better-looking stars who are often not as talented as they are.

Why, they could even end up winning an Emmy, like Tony Shalhoub!

CCP art auctions

THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines is holding two art auctions to raise funds for its artistic programs. The first set of items is being sold through silent bidding until Nov. 26. The items are Cordillera pieces, paintings, prints and photographs which are not part of the CCP collection.

The second set featuring works by contemporary Filipino artists like Ocampo, Luz, Abueva, Jaya, Dans, Bencab, Orlina and Vinluan, will be sold via silent bidding, ending with a live auction on Dec. 3 at the CCP Main Theater's lobby. Selected items may be viewed online via the CCP website at www.culturalcenter.gov.ph. Call 832-3102.

Free concert

IT WILL be a collection of youth, but with a note of caution. Thus, "Ingot o Engot" will be the theme of the free concert featuring popular bands like Parokya ni Edgar, Rivermaya and Brownman Revival on Nov. 28 at 8 p.m. at the Mandaluyong Gym, Boni Circle, Mandaluyong City Hall.

The free concert will launch the State of the Philippine Population Report's second issue, sponsored by the Commission on Population and the United Nations Population Fund.

The report focuses on adolescent reproductive health and youth issues like early and unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, abortion and drug addiction.

Guest stars include **Champagne Morales**, **Glaiza de Castro**, **Juddha Paolo** and the Bagong Dugo comedy team.**Chico** and **Delamar** will host the event.

'Magsimula Ka' auditions

CHILD and adult singers, dancers and actors are invited to audition for roles in a new production of **Gines Tan's** acclaimed musical, "Magsimula Ka," which will go on a fundraising outreach tour for the CCP early next year.

Auditions are at 1 p.m. at the CCP's Tanghalang Huseng Batute. For more details, call audition master **Andy Bais** at 713-9323.

JV, Ladine perform at Merk's

SHOW TIME

TWO rising stars are performing at Merk's this November: Ladine Roxas and JV Villar.

LADINE Roxas

JV Villar

Ladine performs tomorrow, Nov. 26, in her birthday show "Ladine ... Changes," with Acoustic Dream and prince of jazz Richard Merk himself.

JV Villar is a familiar face among televiewers as a reporter/host of such ABS-CBN programs as "Balitang K," "Pinoy Exposed," "Kakasa Ka Ba," "Alas Singko Y Media," "Magandang Umaga bayan," and "The Buzz."

Performing onstage is nothing new to JV. Now his fans will see another side of his—this time as a singer. JV is the featured performer at Merk's on Thursday, Nov. 27, in "JV Villar Sings Together with Johnny John Santos."

JV recently performed at Merk's first anniversary celebration.

Merk's Bar Bistro is on the third level of Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City. Its cuisine, courtesy of the famed Bistro Remedios, is now available for lunch and dinner. For more information, call Merk's Bar Bistro at 757-4720 or 757-4721. Visit the website at merksbarbistro.com or e-mail at mail@merksbarbistro.com.

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Editor Louie C. Camino

Cesar: I hope my son still knows me

By Nini Valera

CESAR Montano has not seen his son with actress Teresa Loyzaga for a few years now.

"That's the sad part," confessed Cesar, who had to think hard to remember the boy's name and age: The boy is Caloy Diego, and he's now 7. He lives in Australia.

But when Cesar made his first international movie, "The Great Raid," which was shot in Australia, he did not get to see his son.

"He lives in Melbourne and we were shooting in Queensland, which was very far," he said. "I did try to call him, but I could not contact him.

"He knows me," he said. "I hope he still knows me. He has my pictures. When he's older, he might just look for me, and I'd welcome him."

The actor has not thought of filing for custody of Caloy Diego.

CESAR/ A23

BLOOD AND GUTS. Cesar (left, with co-star Ricardo Cepeda) plays another real-life character in "Chavit."

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Mandy Moore called up my sister

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

PEOPLE present at the **Mandy Moore** press conference last week were unanimous in saying that the pop princess was like a breath of fresh air.

Mandy's warmth and sweetness filled the room. You could sense her sincerity. Even if she obviously still had jet lag, she managed to be cheerful and bubbly. She could afford to be snooty like most superstars are, but that's apparently not her style.

More than being starstruck, I was in awe as to how "real" she was. I was all the more amazed when she personally called up my sister **Clara**—Mandy's No. 1 fan!—upon receiving Clara's gift and letter to her.

It was a long shot, but Clara decided to write down her cell phone number in the letter and she got the biggest surprise of her life when Mandy called her up. Clara wrote in her letter that she has been so devastated since our mom passed away, and when she heard that Mandy was coming to town it suddenly lifted her spirits.

Mandy even gave Clara advice and told her she would place Clara's gift (a native frame and other knick-knacks) in a special place.

I know it was our mom who whispered to God to grant Clara's wish. In behalf of my mom, allow me to thank the kind-hearted people who were instrumental in making Clara overjoyed at a time when smiles were rare to come by. Endless and deepest thanks to the dashing **Arnold Vegafria**, the ever reliable **Tinnie Esguerra** of ALV productions, MTV Phils.' *muy simpatico* **Rod Nepomuceno**, and the charming **Nina Corpuz** of TV Patrol.

For Mandy fanatics like Clara out there, here are some highlights of the press con:

You are one of the few who have successfully crossed over from being a singer to becoming an actress. If you were to choose, what would you give up, singing or acting?

Mandy: I have been truly blessed. I just hope that I won't get to a point where I would be made to choose between singing and acting because I love doing both. I wish I could always have the best of both worlds.

Mariah Carey just had a concert here. How would you compare your music to hers? Would you say you are more popular than Mariah because you are successful also in the movies?

Gosh! I look up to her. I'm ashamed to even think of comparing my music to Mariah's. She's way up there. Nobody can claim that I'm bigger than she is. She has been in the music scene longer than I have and she's got my respect and admiration.

How are things between you and your boyfriend, (tennis superstar) Andy Roddick? Don't you fight about who has more fans?

No way! He is secure in himself, that's why it's nice having a boyfriend like him. He has got no insecurities or hang-ups. We are getting along real well. We just have to get used to the set-up of being away from each other because of work. But when we do get time to be together, it is all made up for.

What's your say on premarital sex?

That's a really awkward question. Practice safe sex, that's all I can say. (AIDS awareness was the theme of her MTV Summit concert at the Fort)

What's your favorite song in your new album "Coverage"?

"Have a Little Faith in Me" and my remake of "Can We Still Be Friends?"

Will you go back to being blonde? (She changed her hair color for the smash hit movie "A Walk to Remember.")

I think I will stay a brunette. But I don't mind going blonde like in the movie I'm shooting, "Chasing Liberty," where I play the president's daughter.

Any childhood pranks?

Quite a lot! (Laughs) One time I called Radio Shack and pretended that my tongue

MANDY/ A24

May blue tamper proof seal ang tunay
GASUL

TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 25, 2003

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Banks push treasury bill rates higher

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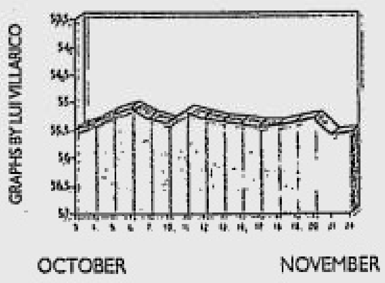

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 55.56= $1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 24, 2003

Y 108.90 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 21, 2003

GOLD: $395.50-396.00
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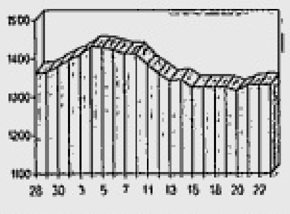
STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks end flat; shrug off Camacho news

SHARES ended flat yesterday, shrugging off Finance Secretary Jose Camacho's resignation announcement on Friday, as players bought selected larger stocks seen with good growth prospects, traders said.

The main stock index was down nearly one percent in early trade but rebounded to finish up 0.28 of a point, or 0.02 percent, at 1,334.58 points. For the year it is up 31.05 percent.

Gains in larger stocks such as Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), mall developer SM Prime and Manila Electric Co.'s "B" shares cancelled out losses in blue chips such as Bank of the Philippine Islands and Globe Telecom.

Turnover was again thin, reaching P295.9 million from Friday's P286.42 million, highlighting growing unease in investing in local stocks ahead of next May's elections and in the wake of Camacho's resignation.

Camacho, a former investment banker, said on Friday he planned to step down at the end of this November, saying he was "emotionally and financially exhausted" working for the government.

He was seen as instrumental in helping rein in the country's budget deficit and his departure raised questions about the country's resolve in tackling budget reforms.

But Andrew Long, research head of ATR Kim Eng Securities, said an earlier market slide and a wait-and-see attitude on Camacho's replacement had tempered Monday's reaction.

"It was an unexpected curve ball but a lot will depend on how they control the damage, who they get in to replace him.

"As long as we get a good replacement, as long as (Bureau of Internal Revenue head Guillermo) Parayno is going to stay, and at this stage it looks like he will, then maybe the damage will be limited." Newspaper reports citing popular film actor Fernando Poe Jr. as saying he was planning to stand in May's presidential election also failed to roil the market.

Reuters

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT'S cost of borrowing—the rate it pays to buyers of treasury bills—yesterday rose due to anxiety caused by the resignation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and the increasing certainty that movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. will join the May presidential elections.

"The market is obviously worried about the resignation of Camacho and the candidacy of FPJ," said Deputy Treasurer Mina Figueroa.

The benchmark 91-day treasury bill yield, used by banks in pricing their loans, went up by 27 basis points to 6.532 percent while the rate for the 182-day instrument increased by 16.5 basis points to 7.586 percent.

The auction committee led by the Bureau of Treasury rejected all offers for the 364-day instrument as it would have raised the yield by 51 basis points.

Figueroa said the bids were even tempered by the huge inflow from maturing government securities. The Treasury said P62 billion worth of bills and bonds were maturing this week and some have fallen due, which boosted the market's liquidity yesterday.

With the rejection of the bids for the one-year treasuries, the government was able to raise only P6.5 billion after giving a full award of P4 billion and P2.5 billion for the three-month and six-month notes.

Figueroa said traders were concerned that the government would have a harder time managing the budget deficit without Camacho. In the first 10 months, the government was able to bring down the gap between revenues and expenditures to a level that was P8 billion lower than the ceiling.

Camacho said, however, that the team he would be leaving behind would ensure that the budget deficit target of P202 billion this year and P197.8 billion in 2004 would be met.

"The market should disassociate the political from the financial. But then, that's easier said than done," said the deputy treasurer.

From Nov. 27 to Dec. 2, the government would be offering three-year retail treasury bonds to small investors.

Figueroa said the government could raise at least P30 billion from the bond issue although some traders were saying that the market could accommodate much more than that.

Last July, the government raised P74.3 billion from the sale of three- and five-year RTBs. In June 2002, the issuance of retail bonds gave the government about P63 billion in proceeds. Investors could buy a minimum of P5,000 and a maximum of P2 million worth of RTBs.

The Treasury said last week that it could cancel the December auctions depending on the volume of the RTBs.

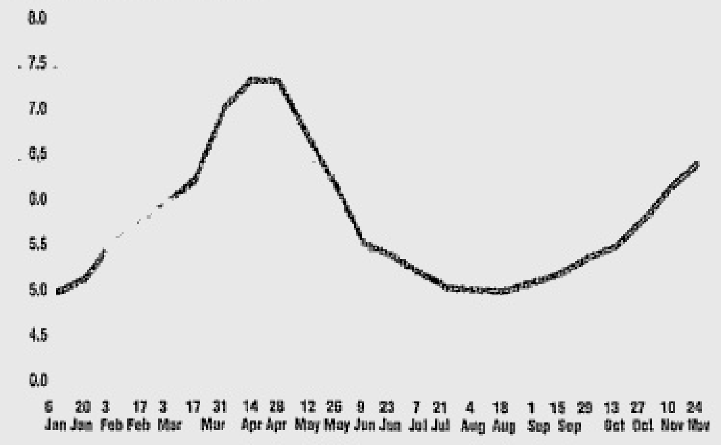
The treasury had shelved the December auctions in the middle of the year but changed its mind a month ago. The government admitted that next month would not be a good time to sell securities because banks and investors would rather stay liquid to finance their expenses.

"It is a reality that rates go up toward yearend because people are reluctant to lend to the government when they would rather hold on to their cash," added Edeza earlier.

Treasury bill rates are back to their levels in the first quarter of the year when the market sought a higher return for placements in government securities owing to

BANKS/ B3

91-DAY TREASURY BILL RATES
January 6 to November 24, 2003



GMA OKs 'open skies' for cargo in Clark, Subic

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal Arroyo has agreed to adopt an "open skies" policy in the Clark Special Economic Zone and Subic Freeport Zone to lure in major international air cargo operators into the country.

The President said the move should encourage more air cargo carriers such as Nippon Cargo Airlines, Royal Dutch Airlines, Global Express, Logistics and Mail, and Cargolux to do business in the Philippines.

The President made the approval during yesterday executive committee meeting of the National Economic and Development Authority, which she chairs.

The President said the "open skies" policy for cargo would be beneficial for the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark as a cargo hub for Asia and the Pacific.

Clark currently hosts the intra-Asian hub of United Parcel Service while rival Federal Express, which set up its hub in Subic, has expressed interest in moving to Clark to expand its operations.

"Opening up the DMIA's aviation market to foreign and domestic carriers without restrictions would be an effective way to promote the airport as a hub for foreign air cargo carriers," the President said.

She said DMIA's strategic location, which is less than three hours away from all major destinations in Asia-Pacific, makes it an ideal cargo hub even for non-American cargo carriers.

She noted that the government has spent close to P1 billion to improve DMIA's facilities to handle more international flights such as P550 million for a radar, P276 million for the apron and taxiways, and taxiway sign ages worth P19 million.

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'Marking the close' distorts the market

I WAS mistaken for an Alzheimer's patient this morning. I was in the hospital getting my monthly prescription for 30 Viagra when I saw a young doctor reading the INQUIRER and laughing his head off. To my delight, he was reading one of my articles so I said to him, "Do you know who I am?" "No", he said, "But if you ask one of the nurses, I am sure she will tell you."

The police have an enormous file on Michael Jackson. It is called a pedo file.

A Filipino was arrested for stealing Christmas lanterns. He was given a suspended sentence and referred to his parol officer.

The Americans are fed up with the war in Iraq. With an ever-increasing number of casualties, I am not surprised. They are also fed up with Turkey but they will stuff themselves anyway next Thursday because it is Thanksgiving Day. Turkey with cranberry sauce is traditional fare.

Here is my favorite story from Bloomberg. It happened in 1995 off the coast of Canada. I have changed the names for obvious reasons but the entire conversation was recorded:

"This is Admiral Janeway of the battleship Enterprise. We are on a collision course. Please turn 15 degrees south west."

"Sorry. No can do."

"Look, you know the rule of the sea. Smaller boats give way to larger ones so change course now."

"Sorry. No can do."

"I don't want to pull rank but I command 3 battleships, 2 aircraft carriers, 8 destroyers and a nuclear submarine. So change course now."

"Sorry. No can do."

"Why is that?"

"We are a lighthouse."

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

* * *

I was unable to write my article yesterday, as I was not feeling well. However, it turned out to be an advantage because I was able to see the market reaction to the totally unexpected resignation of Finance Secretary Camacho. Filipinos and foreigners regard him alike as an efficient and highly competent banker so his departure is seen as a sign that next year, expenditure might spiral out of control. Immediately following news of his resignation, the peso rose to 55.58 and today it opened at 55.70 before setting down at 55.63. All things considered this is not too bad but it remains to be seen whether there will be any further resignations.

The stock market took it stoically, and after opening 8 points lower, it closed unchanged. This was in part due to what is known as marking the close. ALI was hit up from P 5.50 to P5.70 on 41,000 shares and AC was hit up to P5 on just 5,000 shares. This practice should be stopped but the PSE allows it to continue. All they need to do is to designate the close as anywhere from 11.50 to 12.10 and the PSE pulls the plug anytime between. This marking up distorts the index and the individual charts.

Foreign brokers, who control our market, did not appear to be unduly concerned and for the first time in two weeks, they turned from net seller to net buyer. They bought TEL and AC, and sold ALI. Last year, I wrote an article stating that I thought AC to be the better investment and it looks, at least for now, that they agree with me. While ALI's growth is rather modest, AC has the benefit of GLOBE's relatively explosive growth plus a nice dividend.

Last year, I wrote up Petron at P1.80 as a good income stock. It promised to pay a regular dividend of 20 cents so at P1.80, it yielded 11 percent. The shares went up to P2.10 but then got stuck in a tight trading range of P1.96 to P2.10. ING has just upgraded the stock to a BUY with 12-month price target of P2.85.

The 3rd quarter results just announced show Petron's profit for the first 9 months of 2003 is 10 percent higher than the corresponding period of 2002. This means the dividend is covered 1.9 times so it is not impossible that the company will declare a small stock dividend of 15 percent to 20 percent. They have done this three times since they went public. If they do decide to give a small stock dividend, history shows that they usually maintain the cash dividend on the increased capital. All this is pure surmise but I believe that ING is thinking along the same lines. In any event, at P2.02, investors can hardly come to any harm on a yield of almost 10 percent.

The degree of risk on the PHISIX fell to 3 last Wednesday so I wrote that a technical rally couldn't be far away. The market rose on Thursday and Friday, and recovered from 8 points down to unchanged yesterday. Unless there are any further shocks, the rally should continue this week.

₱7-B SHARE-SWAP DEAL

Nextmobile backdoor listing readied

By Doris C. Dumlao

PREMIERE Entertainment Productions Inc. (PEP) has signed a memorandum of agreement with the shareholders of wireless service provider Nextmobile Inc. on a P7-billion share-swap deal that will pave the way for the latter's backdoor listing on the stock exchange.

The Nextmobile shareholders were Top Mega Enterprises Ltd., Joycelink Holdings Ltd., Gamboa Holdings Inc., Emerald Investments Inc. and Foodcamp Industries and Marketing Inc., PEP president Anastacio Diaz told the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

Under the deal, these Nextmobile shareholders will subscribe to common shares at a par value of 50 centavos per share from the company's increase in capital stock of P7 billion. This is in exchange for common shares of Nextmobile representing 97 percent of its capital stock.

The subscription of the company's shares in consideration for the assignment by the Nextmobile shareholders of their shares will take place after both companies complete their capital restructuring.

After the subscription by the Nextmobile shareholders to the PEP shares and the assignment of shares to the company, the Nextmobile shareholders are expected to control about 96.2 percent of PEP's increased capital stock. In turn, PEP will own 97 percent of Nextmobile.

In line with the backdoor listing, the PEP shareholders earlier amended the company's charter to implement its capital restructuring.

Nextmobile, owned and controlled by businessman Mel Velarde, operates the Nextel radiophone network.

Communications firm sets listing on Dec. 12; sees 50% profit growth

TRANSPACIFIC Broadcast Group International Inc. (TBGI), which is set to debut on the Philippine Stock Exchange on Dec. 12, expects a 50-percent yearly growth in net profits starting this year on robust expansion of its data infrastructure business.

In a briefing yesterday, TBGI chair Arsenio Ng said the company expected to sign up more than a hundred contracts with educational institutions by next year.

Ng said there were about 49,000 schools all over the country and it could take as long as 15 years for TBGI to saturate this market alone.

TBGI, which started commercial operations of its satellite facilities in the first half of 1996, generates revenues mainly from Internet, Intranet and local loop services subscriptions of schools, hospitals, corporate private sector and government agencies.

Its core market is the education sector, specifically in the rural areas. The company uses digital technology combining satellite broadcast with Internet protocol for data technology.

Ng said the tourism sector also offered a lot of opportunity for TBGI, as a lot of resorts across the country's many tourist destinations were not yet hooked up to the Internet.

Ng said the company has also mapped out a scheme to lower the cost of connectivity to rural clients. Instead of paying as much as $50,000 for equipment installation, he said clients would only have to spend $7,000. To make it even more affordable, the cost is spread over three years, translating to about P10,000 payment for each month.

Ng said the company was not worried about competition because the market for connectivity was very big.

"You'll only be worried if the market is small or if it's a sunset industry," Ng said.

For new entrants, he said there were too many barriers to entry, such as the need for a congressional franchise as well as the acquisition of technology.

"It's not an easy business but when you have the technology pieces all together, it becomes very easy—like planting mushrooms," Ng said.

TBGI is offering 76.6 million shares at P1.38 each until the end of this week. It plans to use the proceeds to buy equipment, for marketing promotions and working capital.

The company has a 25-year lease agreement to build, maintain and manage a satellite earth station within the Clark Special Economic Zone, a 25-year Congressional Telecom Franchise for commercial telecommunications and television uplink/downlink as well as a provisional authority to transit radio signals.

The company plans to change its name to Transpacific Broadband Group International Inc. before the listing date. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Sun Cellular eyes 4% of market by end-2003

By Abigail L. Ho

GOKONGWEI-OWNED Digitel Mobile Philippines Inc. sees a subscriber base of 800,000 by the end of the year, representing a 4-percent share of the cellular market.

Lance Gokongwei, president and chief executive of Digitel Mobile parent firm Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc., said during an investors' briefing yesterday that the company's Sun Cellular brand hoped to gradually increase its subscriber base in the coming months to achieve critical mass by next year.

Critical mass for the brand would be around 1.5 to 2 million subscribers by end-2004.

"We hope to seek about 15 percent of net (subscriber additions) by the end of 2003," he said.

Cellular service providers Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Communications, including their subsidiaries Innove Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp., currently have the lion's share of the market, being in the cellular service arena for at least 10 years each.

As of end-October, Smart already has more than 12 million subscribers, including the global system for mobile communications (GSM) subscribers of Piltel's Talk 'N Text brand. With these subscriber figures, Smart and Talk 'N Text acccounted for 58 percent of the cellular pie.

Globe has 8.1 million subscribers as of end-September. This figure includes the prepaid GSM subscribers of Innove's Touch Mobile.

While the lead of these two players seemed insurmountable, Gokongwei expressed optimism that Sun Cellular could still play catch-up and eventually become a strong no. 3 contender in the market.

"As of October, net cumulative subscribers have reached about 660,000," he said.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 24, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17	17	17	26,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	44	43	43.5	259,100
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	86,500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	100,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26.5	26	26	128,700
Philippine National Bank	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	27.5	27.5	27	27	6,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Abacus Financial	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	150,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1660	1690	1660	1690	3,110
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1330	1340	1325	1340	3,480
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25.5	26.5	25.5	26.5	43,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.69	0.67	0.69	50,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	745	745	735	740	23,940
ISM Communications Corp.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	500,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.85	0.86	0.84	0.85	1,740,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	760	770	755	765	102,500
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	58,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14.25	14	14.25	215,000
Manila Electric Co. B	21	22	20.75	21.75	1,214,700
Petron Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	1,531,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	350,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	228,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	2,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	300,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.89	0.87	0.89	60,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	34,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.75	17	16.75	17	30,100
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54.5	54	54.5	27,600
San Miguel Corp. B	61	61.5	61	61.5	11,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.95	5	4.9	5	5,215,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	15,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.43	0.46	0.43	0.44	1,460,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.18	0.2	19,050,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	300,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18	18.25	18	18.25	663,700
Ionics Inc.	1.34	1.52	1.34	1.46	91,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.99	1.02	0.99	1.02	189,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.27	2,550,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.13	650,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.085	0.12	0.085	0.12	20,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	130,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.36	0.28	0.36	160,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Pryce Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	180,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	1,500
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	220,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	100,000
Manila Jockey Club	12	12	11.5	11.5	4,500
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26.5	27.5	26.5	26.5	370,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	21,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,300
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	60,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.7	8,688,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.11	0.115	0.11	0.11	1,700,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.22	1,660,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	1,588,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.18	430,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	4,019,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	1,670,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	2,110,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	29,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	50,000
OIL					
Sinophil Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	1,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	764,790	26,586,050.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	157,481,540	191,291,820.00
PRO	18,125,000	76,453,070.00
Mining	33,830,000	1,325,450.00
OIL	1,000,000	18,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	211,201,330	295,674,390.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	422.61	DOWN 3.44
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,987.89	UP 2.24
PRO	558.87	UP 2.86
Mining	1,662.02	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.36	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	836.82	UP 12.15
Composite	1,334.58	UP 0.28

NO. OF ADVANCES: 23; NO. OF DECLINES: 33; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 29; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 85; NO. OF TRADES: 1,402

DISCLOSURES

PRIME Gaming Philippines Inc. will buy 5.5 million of its own shares at a price of not more than P20 per share in the open market.

***

DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry could not give due course to **LMG Chemicals Corp.**'s anti-dumping case against the importation of sulfuric acid from Japan since DTI does not consider the company the representative of sulfuric acid industry in the country.

***

ELECTED directors of **Asiatrust Bank** were Gloria Garcia, Dionisio Ong, Roland Garcia, Raul Boncan, Gary Garcia, Gilda Pico, Aurora Arnaez, Felix Maramba Jr., Jose Unson, Marianita Mendoza and Ramon Rodriguez.

***

FIRST Metro Investment Corp. declared a cash dividend of P26.52 per share. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

November 24, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.83948959	1.000000	55.409000
Japan	Yen	0.007719	0.009195	0.509500
United Kingdom	Pound	1.430322	1.703800	94.405900
Hongkong	Dollar	0.108154	0.128833	7.138500
Switzerland	Franc	0.646756	0.770416	42.688000
Canada	Dollar	0.644324	0.767519	42.527500
Singapore	Dollar	0.488217	0.581564	32.223900
Australia	Dollar	0.606436	0.722387	40.026700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.226822	2.652590	146.977400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.223846	0.266645	14.774500
Brunei	Dollar	0.486802	0.579878	32.130500
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000099	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021056	0.025082	1.389800
UAE	Dirham	0.228575	0.272279	15.086700
Euro	Euro	1	1.191200	66.003200
Argentina	Peso	0.290984	0.346620	19.205900
Brazil	REAL	0.287103	0.341997	18.949700
Denmark	Kroner	0.13446	0.160169	8.874800
India	Rupee	0.01839	0.021906	1.213800
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220948	0.263193	14.583300
Mexico	New Peso	0.074741	0.089031	4.933100
New Zealand	Dollar	0.537101	0.639795	35.450400
Norway	Kroner	0.122461	0.145875	8.082800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014914	0.017765	0.984300
South Africa	Rand	0.129117	0.153804	8.522100
Korea	Won	0.000703	0.000837	0.046400
Sweden	Kroner	0.111734	0.133097	7.374800
Syria	Pound	0.0163	0.019417	1.075900
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024727	0.029455	1.632100
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000526	0.000627	0.034700

Banks push treasury bill …

From page B1

risks associated to the US-Iraq war, uncertainties related to anti-money laundering legislation, and a weakening peso.

Camacho said that the benchmark three-month debt papers still averaged below the government's outlook of 8-9 percent.

Figueroa said that the government was prepared to let the three-month notes go up to the level of the central bank's overnight rate of 6.75 percent.

The deputy treasurer said the market was looking for a clearer direction mostly on the political issues.

台灣商品展

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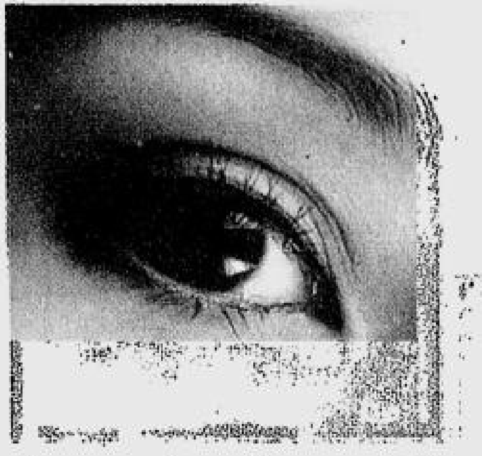

for Asian Eyes

At Toyota, our long-term commitment to environmental protection is based on a sense of global community. Good community relations begin at home, and our corporate forestation programs are putting that principle into action. By creating a cleaner, greener environment for Toyota employees to work in, we also create an oasis for the community, and give something back to the earth that nurtures us all. It's all part of our commitment to corporate social responsibility, and reflects our heartfelt desire to preserve and protect the beauty of nature for generations to come.
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SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	MR. SUAVE
2	SCARY MOVIE 3
3	SEX SCANDAL
4	MR. SUAVE
5	WRONG TURN
6	SCARY MOVIE 3
7	THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8	MASTER & COMMANDER

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	MASTER & COMMANDER
2	THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3	FREAKY FRIDAY
4	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
5	LIBERATED
6	MR. SUAVE
7	MR. SUAVE
8	MASTER & COMMANDER

SM CITY BACOOR
4173866

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3	MASTER & COMMANDER
4	MR. SUAVE
5	SCARY MOVIE 3
6	MR. SUAVE
7	WRONG TURN
8	SEX SCANDAL

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7126915

1	MASTER & COMMANDER
2	BELPHEGOR
3	THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	MAPUPULANG LABI
5	MY FIRST ROMANCE
6	MR. SUAVE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8291575

1	THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2	MR. SUAVE
3	SCARY MOVIE 3
4	MASTER & COMMANDER

SM BICUTAN
7763055

1	MASTER & COMMANDER
2	MR. SUAVE
3	SCARY MOVIE 3
4	THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

SM CITY MARILAO

OPENS Nov. 28

SM STA. MESA
7149522 • 7161416

1	MR. SUAVE
2	WRONG TURN
3	MASTER & COMMANDER
4	LIBERATED
5	SCARY MOVIE 3
6	THE WISHER
7	TH E MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8	SEX SCANDAL
9	WRONG TURN
10	MR. SUAVE

SM SOUTHMALL
8066088

1	MR. SUAVE
2	WRONG TURN
3	THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	SCARY MOVIE 3
5	MASTER & COMMANDER
6	LIBERATED
7	MR. SUAVE
8	MASTER & COMMANDER
9	MY FIRST ROMANCE
10	SEX SCANDAL

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9358749

1	THE WISHER
2	WRONG TURN
3	MASTER & COMMANDER
4	MASTER & COMMANDER
5	MR. SUAVE
6	SEX SCANDAL
7	THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8	MR. SUAVE
9	SCARY MOVIE 3
10	LIBERATED
11	THE RUNDOWN
12	MY FIRST ROMANCE

SM CITY DAVAO
2973333

1	THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2	IDENTITY
3	MR. SUAVE
4	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
5	MR. SUAVE
6	MASTER & COMMANDER

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7100977-80

1	UNDERWORLD
2	THE RUNDOWN
3	MR. SUAVE
4	IDENTITY

SM MEGAMALL
6331601 • 6335401

1	MASTER & COMMANDER
	RESERVE-A-SEAT dial 6368000
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3	SCARY MOVIE 3
4	MR. SUAVE
5	THE WISHER
6	LIBERATED
7	SEX SCANDAL
8	MASTER & COMMANDER
9	MR. SUAVE
10	SCARY MOVIE 3
11	THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
12	WRONG TURN

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	MASTER & COMMANDER
2	SEX SCANDAL
3	MR. SUAVE
4	SCARY MOVIE 3

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
2	RESERVED
3	MR. SUAVE
4	THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5	FREAKY FRIDAY
6	MASTER & COMMANDER
7	RESERVED
8	AMERICAN PSYCHO 2

SM CITY MANILA
5233240

1	THE WISHER
2	MASTER & COMMANDER
3	SCARY MOVIE 3
4	SCARY MOVIE 3
5	WRONG TURN
6	MASTER & COMMANDER
7	SEX SCANDAL
8	THE PHONE
9	MR. SUAVE
10	MR. SUAVE
11	THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
12	LIBERATED

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8563884

1	UNDERWORLD
2	MR. SUAVE
3	UPTOWN GIRLS
4	THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505

1	MASTER & COMMANDER
2	MR. SUAVE
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City • 638 9781 - 85

1 SCARY MOVIE 3
10:40 FS/11:00 MF/1:00/3:00/5:00/7:00/9:00 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:30 END

2 MASTER & COMMANDER: THE FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD
12:10 FS/12:35 MF/3:10/5:45/8:20/10:40LFS/11:00 LMF/1:20 END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8975 • LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee - P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday • Regular P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS @ Robinsons Malls

TOP MOVIE THEATER
Annual National
Consumer's Quality Award 2003

NOW SHOWING

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Galleria
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687-0593

THX /All Digital

1 MASTER AND COMMANDER 12:35, 3:35, 6:35, 9:35 THX	4 WRONG TURN 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55
2 SCARY MOVIE 3 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40	5 MR. SUAVE 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
3 MASTER AND COMMANDER 10:15, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00	6 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 10:50, 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50
7 DARK BLUE 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55	9 HEAD OF STATE 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
8 SEX SCANDAL 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00,7:00, 9:00	10 THE RUNDOWN 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

MATINEE PRICE: P100 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita
526-7185
536-7809 to 12

1 SCARY MOVIE 3 - 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:30, 10:00
2 MASTER AND COMMANDER - 10:55, 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:00
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 MASTER AND COMMANDER - 10:15, 1:05, 3:55, 6:45, 9:30
5 MR. SUAVE - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
6 WRONG TURN - 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:20, 10:00
7 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS - 11:10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:00

Metro East
Marcos hway
682-8193/99
682-8280

1	MR. SUAVE
2	MASTER AND COMMANDER
3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	SCARY MOVIE 3
5	SEX SCANDAL
6	WRONG TURN
7	MASTER AND COMMANDER
8	DARK BLUE

Novaliches
935-3229 / 31

1	MASTER AND COMMANDER
2	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3	WRONG TURN
4	MY FIRST ROMANCE
5	MR. SUAVE
6	SCARY MOVIE 3
7	DARK BLUE
8	SEX SCANDAL

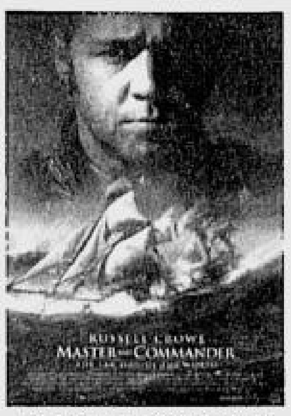
Star Mills (045)875-1827 (045)861-5270		Imus (046)471-8188 / 875-5858
THE PHONE	1	MASTER AND COMMANDER
MAPUPULANG LABI	2	SEX SCANDAL
MR. SUAVE	3	MR. SUAVE
BELPHEGOR	4	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
MASTER AND COMMANDER	5	SCARY MOVIE 3
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	6	WRONG TURN

Bacolod (034)441-0458/59		Iloilo (033)336-8070 to 78
MASTER AND COMMANDER	1	MASTER AND COMMANDER
MR. SUAVE	2	SUCKERS
UNDERWORLD	3	THE SUSPECT
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	4	MR. SUAVE
FREAKY FRIDAY	5	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
THE PHONE	6	AMERICAN PSYCHO 2

Sta. Rosa (049)837-0907		Lipa, Batangas (043)757-3604/312-5870
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	1	MASTER AND COMMANDER
THE SPY	2	THE PHONE
BELPHEGOR:	3	BELPHEGOR
MR. SUAVE	4	LIBERATED
MASTER AND COMMANDER	5	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Malabon
288-0985/2575

1	SEX SCANDAL
2	SCARY MOVIE 3
3	MR. SUAVE
4	MASTER AND COMMANDER



NOW SHOWING
at Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

OPENS DECEMBER 3

MAGIC 89.9

MATINDING LABAN 'TO, SINO KAKAMPI MO?

In the BATTLE of the SEXES, who will be the FIRST to BLINK and FALL in LOVE?

GEORGE CLOONEY
CATHERINE ZETA-JONES

INTOLERABLE CRUELTY

Engage the enemy.

2ND WEEK

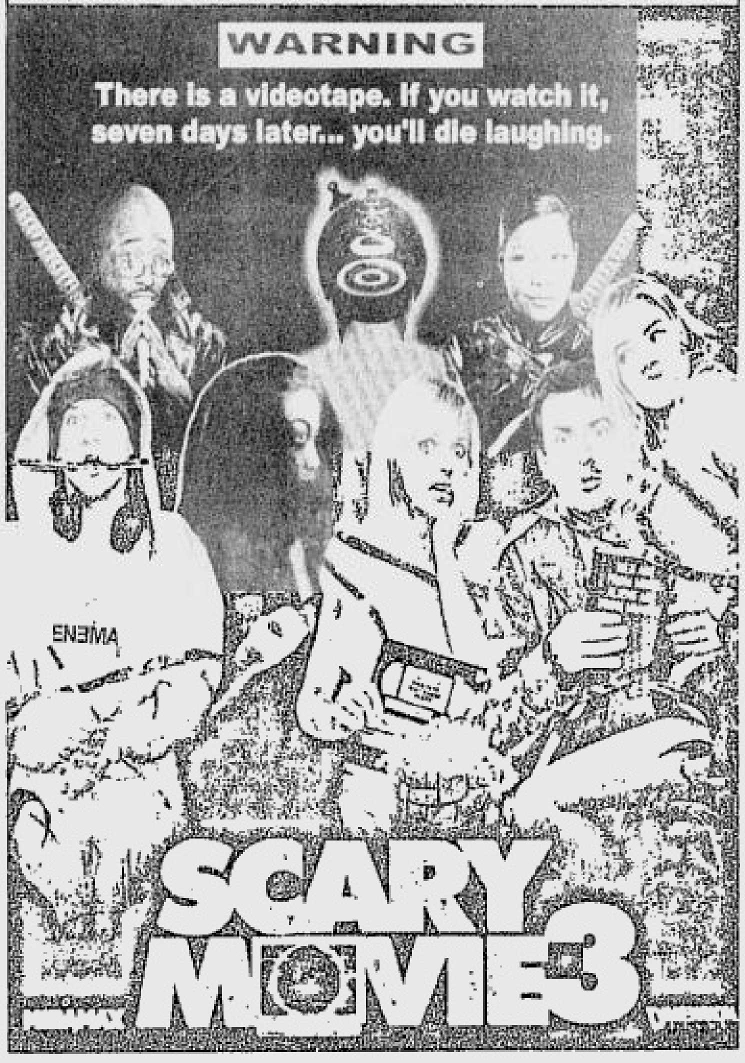
MAGIC 89.9

#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE WKS:

MTRCB ▸ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

WARNING

There is a videotape. If you watch it, seven days later... you'll die laughing.



THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND • EX

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 MASTER AND COMMANDER
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
PG13

CINEMA 2 SCARY MOVIE 3
12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:50
R13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM

DEC 5	HITBACK	9:00PM
DEC 6	IRONN MAN & IRONN MAIDEN	5:00PM

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POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND • EX

SCARY MOVIE 3 R13 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	MASTER AND COMMANDER PG13 12:15, 3:05, 5:55, 8:45	SCARY MOVIE 3 R13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	MR. SUAVE PG13 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20	MASTER AND COMMANDER PG13 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON., TO FRI.

Entrepreneur of the Year search

WHO'S WHO in RP business, newcomers make up Entrepreneur of the Year Philippines nominees. The SGV Foundation and the Department of Trade and Industry announce that the roster of nominees to the first-ever Entrepreneur of the Year (EOY) Philippines includes who's who entrepreneurs in Philippine business as well as up-and-coming heads of small and medium outfits.

This, as lawyer Rodolfo O. Reyes, spokesperson for the Search for the EOY Philippines, states that the search is onto the judging phase.

He also said that as winners are awaited, the EOY Philippines committee is now commencing preparations for the Philippine participation in the World EOY awards to be held in Monte Carlo, Monaco in mid-2004.

A distinguished panel of judges representing the government, banking, business and academe will convene for the final selection of winners in the five award categories: Master Entrepreneur, Emerging Entrepreneur, Information and Communications Technology Entrepreneur, Young Entrepreneur and Socially-Responsible Entrepreneur.

Among these winners will emerge the first Entrepreneur Of The Year Philippines. The winners will be announced in a grand awards banquet in early 2004. The first Entrepreneur Of The Year Philippines will represent the country in the World EOY Awards.

The category that had the highest turnout of nominees is for the Socially Responsible Entrepreneur. The award honors the individual who has used his or her private sector skills and creativity to help his or her community overcome social or environmental problems. The award is not intended to recognize the largest and or most visible charitable contributors, but rather to celebrate successful entrepreneurs' individual efforts to give something back to their community.

For-profit businesses that have or create products with a social benefit were not included in this category unless they practice social responsibility in all aspects of their operations.

The initial crop of nominees for the Socially Responsible Entrepreneur is a mix of companies from the manufacturing, entertainment and service industries.

The Bankers Association of the Philippines will confer the Socially Responsible Entrepreneur Of The Year Award. The BAP is the umbrella organization of the country's biggest commercial banks. It is one of the strategic partners of the SGV Foundation and the DTI in the search for the first EOY Philippines.

Other strategic partners are the Philippine Stock Exchange and the UP College of Business Administration.

The EOY award, which is now in over 40 countries, was launched in the United States in 1986 by Ernst and Young, a global professional services firm. Previous winners include Michael Dell of Dell Computers, Howard Schultz of Starbucks, Pierre Omidyar of eBay Inc. and Jeff Bezos of Amazon.com

PLDT, FEU SIGN TRAINING PROGRAM AGREEMENT

Parlance and Vocative Call Centers recently forged an alliance with Far Eastern University on the implementation of a CSR training program for FEU's selected fourth year college students. This special course, which will be offered for free consists of both classroom-based and actual on-the-job training classes focused on Call Center Fundamentals in order to equip students with the skills necessary for prospective employment in ePLDT's Call Centers as CSRs. Shown are (seated, from left): Rosalie Montenegro, PLDT SVP for call center business (Parlance and Vocativ); Dr. Lydia Echauz, FEU president. Standing (from left): Zenaida Martinez, FEU associate dean of Arts and Sciences; Ann Margaret Santos, FEU registrar; Letty Gonzales, PLDT senior manager, call center business; Marigrace Lapitan, PLDT AVP, recruitment and placement; Lydia Palaypay, FEU VP for academic affairs; Dr. Miriam Garcia, FEU dean, Teachers Academy; Dr. Dalisay Brawner, FEU dean, Centex; engineer Elena Moran, FEU discipline coordinator, Osacs; Romeo Orio, FEU associate dean, Institute of Accounts.

NUTRI-LICIOUS EXPANDS PRODUCT LINE

Nutri-licious Foods Corp (NFC) expands its beverage line with the launch of Migo Milk Drinks. The introduction of the ready-to-drink milk-based products is part of NFC's thrust to continuously offer more delicious and nutritious products to its customers aside from its juice line. Presenting the products at the launch are (from left) NFC key accounts assistant manager Rollie Wagan, technical services department manager Joy Calese, VP for operations Lhoy dela Cuesta, and national retail head Cris Hernandez.

PDIC approves consolidation of 3 rural banks

THE PHILIPPINE Deposit Insurance Company (PDIC), through its Resolution No. 2003-07-0111, has granted consent to the proposed consolidation of three of Mindanao's largest rural banks, Network Rural Bank, Inc (NRB), Rural Bank of Panabo, Inc (RBP), and Provident Rural Bank, Inc (PRB), pending approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). The new consolidated bank will be called the One Network Rural Bank, Inc.

Within the Mindanao rural banking sector, the three consolidating banks have shown sustained growth and a relatively stronger financial performance compared with their counterparts in the commercial banking sector. The PRB, for example, has a risk-asset ratio of approximately 24 percent, significantly above the minimum 10 percent required by the BSP. The PRB has also maintained a return of equity (ROE) ratio of above 23 percent over the last three years making it one of the most profitable banks in its sector.

The proposed consolidation will combine the strengths and resources of the NRB, RBP and PRB to better serve the rural townsfolk and SME's of Mindanao. The consolidation will also take advantage of certain incentives the BSP offers to consolidating middle and small sized banks. These incentives include branching, servicing FCDU or US$ deposit accounts and participation in direct clearing operations of PCHC/BSP.

Due to these factors and the marked stability of the consolidating banks and rural banking in general, the proposed One Network Bank will be able to offer the financial strength of a larger institution with the service flexibility rural banks provide. One Network Bank will consist of a combined number of 46 branches across 30 municipalities and 9 cities in Mindanao. This will make One Network Bank the largest and widest rural banking network in the Philippines.

ABS-CBN
BANTAY BATA
BANTAY BATA 163

WSI SIGNS MOA WITH ABS-CBN BANTAY BATA

Joseph L. Ang (left), founding chair of Worldbex Services International (WSI), the organizer of the World Bazaar Festival, recently signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with Gina Lopez, managing director of Bantay Bata 163, ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. The agreement reprises the Bantay Bata's role as the sole beneficiary of the upcoming 3rd World Bazaar Festival slated from Dec. 4 to 14 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. Also shown are (standing, from left), Edward Diamonon, vice president of WSI, Jill Aithnie Ang, managing director of WSI and Carl Lester Ang, product officer of Multi-Rich Home Decors Inc.

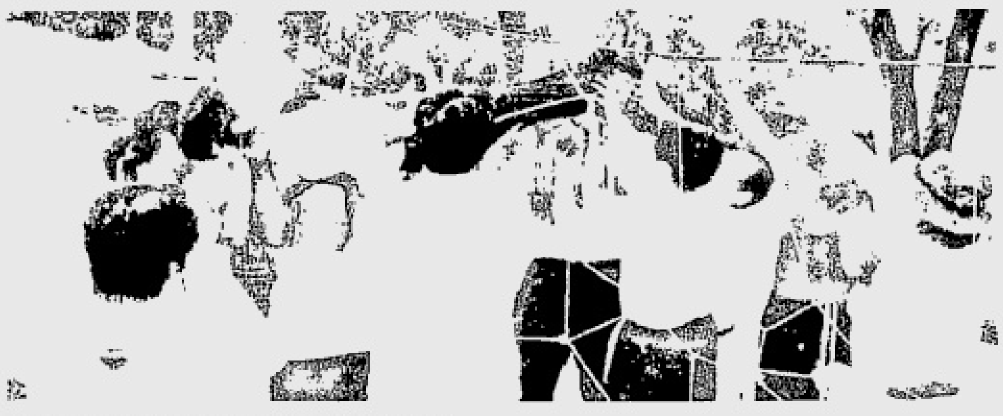
ProductFILES

Memo at SM Pampanga

PAMPANGUENOS who are known for their meticulous taste in apparel need not go to Metro Manila to shop for fine quality work wear as Memo recently opened its newest store in SM City-San Fernando, Pampanga. Located at the ground floor of SM Pampanga, Memo offers a wide range of casual work apparel with timeless styles and hues completing a classic ensemble for today's successful male executives and businessmen. Memo also dresses female professionals who are very discriminating with their office wear. With its classic yet up-to-date fashion lines, Memo's clothing complements the young professionals affinity to project success while affording them to maintain that casual look. Watch out for the opening of other Memo shops in the metropolis soon.

A NEW LOOK FOR BPI'S EBCS

For its 152nd anniversary this year, the Bank of the Philippines Islands (BPI) recently launched the new look of its Express Banking Centers (EBCs) to the public at five EVCs in Metro Manila malls: Glorietta 4, SM Megamall, Shangri-La Edsa, Alabang Town Center and Ever Gotesco Commonwealth. The EBCs are open when traditional branches are not - Saturdays and Sundays and during mall hours. There are now over 120 EBCs across the country. Photo shows (from left) BPI VP for EBCs Jojo Ocampo, BPI SVP-marketing Nita Claravall, BPI SEVP Aurelio Montinola III, and BPI SVP-card banking Tessie Tan.



GAMES THAT BUILD THE TEAM

Employees of Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines Inc (PCPPI) have been undergoing the Kaibigan team building workshop nationwide. Aside from engaging in games that foster teamwork, the participants take part in discussions that help clarify life's priorities and align these priorities to the company's thrust. This united and highly motivated workforce is one of the main forces behind the strong growth of the Pepsi business today.

'2ND COMING' FOR C-CUBED

Customer Contact Center Inc (C-Cubed) proves how solid reputation and hard work can accelerate a local company to the competitive global market with the recent entry of major foreign partners into the C-Cubed dynamic team. C-Cubed is now owned by a strong group of shareholders led by J. Xavier 'Eckie' Gonzales, C-Cubed's chief executive officer. The US-based investor controls the country's largest private telecommunication conglomerate and is the fifth largest US long distance carrier. The anticipated investment of the publicly listed Hinduja Group is likewise expected to bring both financial and marketing benefits to C-Cubed. C-Cubed's main facility is located at Eastwood City Cyberpark in Libis, operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Shown during C-Cubed's recent welcome party are (from left) US partner Wilkes McCain, Gonzales, and Indian partner MS Varadan.

MY SPECIAL VALENTINE DRAW

DTI-NCR representative Elvira Saga (center) is seen with Bookware Publishing Corp staffer Maricris Saldi and National Bookstore branch manager Felisa Reboya during the recent monthly draw of 'Nokia 7650 Baffle Promo' held at SM Fairview in Quezon City. For the readers of My Special Valentine (MSV) pocketbooks, its lucky winner is Zenaida Cacdac of Mayantoc, Tarlac. The company announces that after the grand draw, there will be a new promo where readers can still send their unused coupons. For inquiries, call 631-8893 to 94.

Clips

Werdenberg joins Aussie Beef & Wine Promotion

WERDENBERG Corp, importer of the finest in food products, is joining the Australian Beef and Wine Promotion this whole month of November, featuring its imported chilled Rangers Valley superb quality grain fed beef from Australia. Rangers Valley beef can be purchased by clients at Santis Delicatessen's 8 branches here in the Philippines. For inquiries, call 840-3771, website: www.werdenberg.com.

Bravo! anniversary treats

IN CELEBRATION OF Bravo! Ristorante Italiano Malate's (in Adriatico St., Manila) anniversary this month and Bravo! Alabang (at the 2nd level of Festival Mall) on December, the restaurant has lined up three treats. The "Italian Champagne Special" promo offers one smooth Italian champagne for free for every P3,000 food purchase. For every 5 adults in a group, one gets to dine for free in the "Bring 5 Pay 4 promo". Ten means two's out of the bill, and so forth. And from 10 p.m. onwards nightly, the "Late Happy Hour" promo gives a 30 percent discount on drinks. So celebrate with Bravo! throughout the merry months of the year.

WAPR 4th National Conference

DR. LOURDES Ladrido-Ignacio, president of WAPR-Philippines was elected secretary general of the World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation (WAPR) for 2003-2006. WAPR-Phils was initiated by Dr. Ignacio sometime in 1987 among individuals dedicated to the concerns for the chronic mentally ill and their families. On Nov. 28 to 29, WAPR-Phils will hold its 4th National Conference on Psychosocial Rehabilitation with the theme, "Kalinga Mo, Pag-asa Ko: Partnerships for Psychosocial Rehabilitation", followed by the 5th Mini Olympics for recovered mental patients on Nov. 30th. Registration fee is P1,000. For reservation, contact 813-6468 (Joy), 0917-4010090 (Cheryll).

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF ILIGAN
Office of the City Mayor
COMMITTEE ON AWARDS
INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals for labor and materials, (brand new, and genuine spare parts) of the under chassis & engine, consumables and other incidentals necessary for the complete repair/rehabilitation and repainting of five (5) units 10 Wheelers Hongyan Dumptrucks NTC 290 Horse Power, 6 in line Cylinder, diesel fed engine bearing Plate Nos

Hongyan Dumptruck 11 SDW-732
Hongyan Dumptruck 12 SDW-737
Hongyan Dumptruck 13 SDW-736
Hongyan Dumptruck 16 SDW-735
Hongyan Dumptruck 17 SDW-731

located at the City Engineer' Office, City of Iligan, under the following terms & conditions:

1.) Contractor shall assess the scope of supply and extent of repair/replacement parts and rehabilitation of each unit based on their actual inspection.
2.) Freight, handling, arrastre, wharfage and auxiliary costs, as may be required, shall be borne by the Contractor;
3.) Units shall be restored to tiptop running condition;
4.) Painting materials shall be automotive color caterpillar yellow, black chassis;
5.) One year warranty for the equipment parts and will commence upon delivery to City Engineer's Office Compound;
6.) Repair/rehabilitation shall be completed in (6) six months time for the five (5) units, and
7.) Quotation shall be in Philippine currency with itemized breakdown for each dumptruck unit, specifying the respective scope of repair & supply of original parts

will be received in the Office of the City General Services Officer, Iligan City, until Dec 9, 2003 at 9 00 o'clock AM at which time and place same will be publicly opened to determine the lowest complying and most advantageous bid

All bids must comply with the provisions of COA Circular No 92-386 and accompanied by a Bidder's bond equal to at least 5% of the total bid price but not to exceed TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00) per bid proposal. Prospective bidders in need for further information may forward their inquiry to:

The City General Services Officer
City Hall, Iligan City
Tel. Nos.: (063) 221-4340 or
(063) 516-759

All bids must be in Philippine currency. Bids not in Philippine currency will be disqualified.

The City Government of Iligan neither assumes any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made

The right is further reserved, as the best interest of the City Government of Iligan may require, to waive any informality or to reject any or all bids received, without assigning any reasons

(Sgd.) FRANKLIN M. QUIJANO
City Mayor

(PDI--Nov 24, 25 & 26, 2003)

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VIP-M/F 09193591771 / 472-7647 Romy

Zhoren-09185969154

REFLEXOLOGY

CHRIS or BOBBIE 09182020964

Edward 7289285 09195367404

Jason 3rd Massage 4216876

FEELS GOOD 4127758

MALE SPA 7314018

Wizard Massage 4213197/4227303

TRAVEL & TOURS

JOB SEARCH & VISA ASSISTANCE
CANADA
637-3210/ 0916-5696800

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Direct Maid Yaya Int'l Cook 7572089

Direct Maid Yaya Int'l Cook 7572089

Best maids 4146800/7111602

BEST MAIDS 772-4213

EMILY w/NBI MAID 4547542

Good Maid Yaya Driver 4214652

Good Maid Yaya Boy 9957034

Good-Maid-Yaya-Cook 853-3504

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

IDEAL MAID YAYA 7427198

MAID DRIVER BOY 4107388

MAID YAYA COOK 8957507

Maid/Cook/Yaya 7329642

MAIDS W/NBI-REF. 9950535

MAIDS*ALABANG 8420119 Q.City 9268984/4331431

PROVINCIAL ALL AROUND MAIDS Call Josie 8737057•8737055

Prov'l Trusted Maids Yaya CALL:9124701 • 9124706

ANGEL'S HANDS w/ NBI&BI 4213253 / 4213874

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

ELF 4160973 09205656342

L-BAHAY 8383742/09208449984

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

LIPAT BAHAY 535-2064

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

P1000/TRIP 742-14-57

•P600Trp 4153808/7001529

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL

PASIG

Meralco Ave cor Lot 40T / sm Ok 4 Hi-ris Call 645-3731

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

950T 2BR 2STY 8054686

PASIG

• Karangaln Vill new 4BR 3TB 2sty P2.75M 6558185

PASIG EXEC. HOMES
P2.9M Promo 10%DP 2movin 3BR 3TB maidsrm 2CG BNEW! call Lyn at 0917-2727239

QUEZON CITY

P381,000/unit condo 2Kms fr. SM Fairview 30sqm thru Pag-ibig 8179650 / 9750 / 0919-8994322

RIZAL

250sqm 4br 2tb md / lb 2car twn & country call 6341212

NR ORTIGAS EXT P2.5M CAINTA Ridgmont Exec New French-3BR Bungalow Lot: 5m² T9488240/9339448

LAGUNA

Binan 3T/mo 25yrs 9390299

RUSH! Lag.Bel-Air 725-7972 Old Price • 0920-9211764

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

LE DOMAINE CONDOMINIUM 131.41sq.m./residential Tordesillas St.,Salcedo Vill., Makati •Call Nancy 830-8145•

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2tb/grge P3.435M 8903461 loc 34

ALPHA SALCEDO CONDO 63.47sq.m./residential Dela Costa St., Salcedo Vill., Makati •Call Nancy 830-8145•

MANILA

930T nr UST 0920-8309744

ESPANA TOWER
nr UST 0917-8102903

NR LA SALLE
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

1-2-3BR nr La Salle TAFT 894-4516 / 0917-9853661

Nr UST 3.6M 4br 3tb 1cg Nr bank, Loan Ok Call 645-3731

MANDALUYONG

RUSH! CONDO 2br 3tb 1pkg ALONG EDSA 0918-5179690

PASIG

adb ave nr podium ready 2005 sfd 4brs call 6341212

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO 1.4M 10%DP 9132224

*CUBAO CONDO
No D/P Pagibig 09178102903

LOT

LAS PINAS

TALON 204m²@P4,000 639-1694 / 0917-8102903

MALABON

1413sqm Delmonte T8437027

PASIG

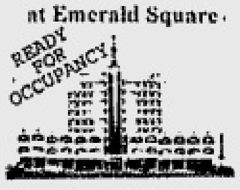
URGENT SALE R.Thaddeus St Romeo Marietta Vill 261m² neg Cristy 09167864705

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

The
TOWER
at Emerald Square



EMERALD TWR
COR TUAZON &
J.P. RIZAL ST.
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NEAR U.P. • ATENEO
MIRIAM COLLEGE
OFF./RES'L. CONDO
SALE OR LEASE TO OWN
P1.4M - UP EASY TERMS
ONLY 100T TO MOVE IN
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MAKATI

RIDGE
Bonifacio Ridge
Bonifacio Ridge is a beautifully crafted two-tower residential condominium in the new Bonifacio Global City, adjacent to the Manila Golf Course. For comfort, beauty, security and carefree leisure, Bonifacio Ridge. It's a sure thing.
Call Now!
Christine Tan
09228043079/5756536 10-2 pm
Ayala Land Accredited Broker

LOT

LAGUNA

CABUYAO
MULTI-LAND III lots 100 sqm @P3000/sqm or hse & lot package call Tess at 8160997 or 09179166285

QUEZON CITY

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS choice lots w/ view 426-5650•929-1832

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

• RAWLANDS •
Located in Sto.Nino, Lipa City Approx. 75 Ha. Property w/ Fruit Bearing Trees. Ideal for Cattle Raising or Subd. for Small Family Farming Price: P200/m² For Details Call Sales Tel. 8160097

ZAMBALES, Fishpond 8ha.+ P10M Devlpd 0920-9112910

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MANDALUYONG

2BR 1TB 531-6263

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

APT/CONDO W/GARAGE PACO MANILA TEL 563-6296

SAN JUAN

GHILLS 1BR 1ST 4121825

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P3.8 LADY 9124426

Studio rms 29 Matapang St. Diliman nr SSS V. Luna Heart Center 9214171 Baby

w/bus space 7.5T 3730584

BUSINESS RENTAL

AYALA AVE T8181696/7586

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677623/24

BUSN DRS OFW 524-3197

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will sell various *SCRAP MATERIALS* located at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila thru sealed bids to be received by the Committee not later than *10:00 A.M. on December 12, 2003* at Room MR-2C, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila.

Interested parties may inspect the items at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila before the bidding date.

Forms and further information may be obtained from the Committee's, Executive Officer, Ms. Crisanta F. Reyes, Administrative Services Department, Room 110, Ground Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, Telephone No. 525-8786.

(Sgd.) MELPIN A. GONZAGA
Chairman

(PDI--Nov. 25, 2003)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

BSA SUITES 1BR nr Grnbelt P25T/mo. neg 0917-8943697

OTHER REAL ESTATE

REALTORS/SEMINAR

Looking for Farm in Tanay Rizal, 4has. 0920-9112910

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

MAZDA

RUSH! 1997 Mazda 323 Familia GLi Green Call 631-9954 from 6-10PM

TOYOTA

95CrlaXE FreshUSver 220T7767507

VAN/PICK-UP

89 SUNNY P/UP D/B Cab C'Shell P60T 913-9152

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Land Cruiser Pajero Surf Delica Hi-Town Ace Spacegear Serena Trooper Elf Canter etc A1 w/warranty finance T-in ok 9120647 Beryl

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CHIPEST IN TOWN Starex MB100 Coaster Bus Hi-Ace • 637-7396

1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

ABC*LUXURY CARS/VANS Expedition CRV Pajero Mbenz Starex Crosswind Grandia Accord Cefiro Altis-G Lynx VTEC T536-8822;303-9789;4262278

★Vans Coaster Bus 422-9296

CARS, VAN T9273453

L300 ADV. 741-1356

STAREX 12 seater 7318549

Van 0917-8143792 • 6421840

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0357

1.5% CARLOAN 952-2510

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/o Taking Car 6567685

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650074/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 826-7840

2% w/o Taking Car 7262700

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

EDUCATION PLANS 71377284

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

WANTED TO BUY

DEFECT TV/A'CON etc 7325865

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
Repair / Polish Any watch
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
Hyatt • 804-0484 / 834-2886
Greenhills • 724-4374

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Stable Company needs two(2) experienced salesman, male, 30 to 50 years old, speak fluent English, good sales presentation skills. We provide leads, salary & commissions. Fax resume to 892-9069

FEMALE

F-ESCORT • 0916-4044479

SALES PROMO GIRLS
White to Fair Complexion FOR Beauty Products 7248781 7272890

MALE/FEMALE

OFC. MKTG.STAFF 18-45yrs old col. level/grad 9134470 Marlene

• DIR. HIRE • OFC MKTG STAFF 20-48YO COL. GRD/LVL W/ OR W/O EXP W/ SALRY MAYSEL 9352962•

DIRECT HIRE OFC MKTG STAFF 18-45yo w/w/o exp Coll grad/ugrad T-4387472 Ms Olga

JOB HIRING 09167054572 AINA

OFC MKTNG STF 09208062187

WANTED: Accountant Computer Literate FINE FANCY Bldg B Basement SM Megamall

---

A transnational company engaged in marketing and distribution of branded household and personal care products is in need of qualified

sales personnel

for their Philippine expansion.

We are looking for:

- An expert in all facets of distributorship management in fast moving consumer goods. He could have been former distributor sales personnel who started with van selling, then promoted to manage key accounts and eventually tasked to handle entire operations.
- With extensive exposure to trade marketing and merchandising including but not limited to in-store promotions, handling of promo girls, blitz among others.
- A self-starter, thinker, doer rolled into one and work with less supervision. At least a college graduate, no more than 30 years old and computer literate.
- Successful candidates will be tasked to manage distributors in Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao. Thus, applicants from VISMIN are also welcome.

If you have what we're looking for, please submit comprehensive resumé to:
gentlesupremephil@yahoo.com
no later than 29th of November 2003. Only qualified applicants will be called for interview.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Wtd Masseuse 09197247287 MF

XRAYTECH/2916985/2772167

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

•OWN UR LIFE• travelandwork fromhome.com 8531088 09178901851

Extra Income? 026510616

JEWELRY CONSIGN / NO CAPITAL - TERMS OK M-S @ 4531434

LEARN & BE IN BUSINESS! Meat Processing (10Recipes)/ Soap&Detergent Making - Nov. 30 724-79-90 & 725-29-36

RETIRE 2YRS 09189051567

RTW Consign 09167940002

SINGAPOREAN looking for partners to develop new industry with patented technology 0927-4936266

SlryLoan 2days Prcng 8733720

SMART E-LOAD EASIEST WAY GLOBE AUTO LOAD 7252311

Work By Phone, Earn Up 2
P30T/month!
Female, 23&up! 892-7828

XMASLITES 3SETS/P100 Trees Ropelites Etc. 532-3909

DEALERSHIP

WHOLESALE NATURAL SPRING WATER P24.00 for 5 Gallons Pick Up At Plant Site in Pila, Laguna Text/Call 0920-2154126 For More Info. Waterola, Inc.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that a yellow prescription pad with SN#272101-272125 issued on March 13, 1990 to Gregorio L. Diokno Jr. MD, of 86 Canton St. BF Homes Paranaque was lost on October 18, 2003
(PDI-November 25, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Bureau of International Health Corporation
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila

ERRATUM

The Early Childhood Development Project-Department of Health Component is in need of Nutrition Specialist, not Business and Food and Nutrition Analyst as stated in our November 23, 2003 issue.

(PDI - Nov. 25, 2003)

ONLINE

www.henrybutcher.com

URGENT AUCTION SALE!!!

MODERN INDUSTRIAL FACILITY IN PEZA ZONE

30,118m2 Land Area
10,255 M² Building Area - Constructed 1996

Location:
Rex Technologies Philippines, Inc.
LIMA Technology Center, SEZ,
Malvar, Batangas, Philippines

Starting Bid PHP55,000,000
(ORIGINAL COST PHP290,000,000)

Low Starting Bid

Bid Closing 6pm Tuesday 9th December 2003

For further particulars, viewing & bidding details please contact: Matt Freeston - Tel.: 63 2 852 2910

HENRY BUTCHER
GoIndustry INDUSTRIAL ASSET DISPOSAL & VALUATION

HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC.
Rm. 102 Jolliland Bldg., 670 Edsa, Pasay City, Philippines
Tel No.: +(63-2) 852-2910 * 11 Fax No.: +(63-2) 831-9507
E-mail:manila@henrybutcher.com
Website: www.henrybutcher.com/www.goindustry.com

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COTABATO CITY WATER DISTRICT
Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Cotabato City Water District invites interested LWUA accredited supplier for public bidding of supply & delivery;

A. 20 pcs. Cement-Lined Steel Pipe 200 mm Ø (8"Ø) x 6M. x 6.4 mm thick
10 pcs. CC/CL Steel Pipe 200 mm Ø (8"Ø) x 6M x 6.4 mm thick
10 pcs. Cement-Lined Steel Bend 200 mm Ø (8"Ø) x 45° x 6.4mm thick
10 pcs. CC/CL Steel Bend 200 mm Ø (8"Ø) x 45° x 6.4 mm thick

B. 500 pcs. uPVC Pipe 200 mm Ø (8"Ø) x 6M, C-150 w/ RR

Interested parties may secure bid documents and the checklist of the qualification requirements from Cotabato City Water District.

The schedule of the bidding activities is as follows:

PARTICULAR	DATE/TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	Nov. 26, to Dec. 05, 2003 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Opening/Submission of bids	December 10, 2003, Wed. 10:00 a.m.

The CCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the CCWD. The CCWD likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) MANUEL D. MAGDAEL
Chairperson
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 18 & 25, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF ILIGAN

Office of the City Mayor
COMMITTEE ON AWARDS

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals for the delivery of the following

2units - Brand New Ten (10) Wheelers Dumptruck 6x4 Forward Control Japan, Europe or U.S. made or equivalent with the following specifications:
1.) Left hand drive, power steering
2.) Ten (10) cubic meter dumpbox Capacity, gross vehicle weight 25,000Kg (minimum)
3.) 280 Horsepower (minimum) for turbo charged engine or 320 Horse power (minimum) for naturally aspirated engine
4.) Diesel fed engine, direct injection, water cooled, six (6) cylinder (minimum) for inline engine or eight (8) cylinder (minimum) for V-type engine
5.) Standard tools, accessories, parts book, manual for operation and maintenance
6.) One year warranty or 100,000 Kilometers which ever come first
7.) Free filters or warranty servicing period

will be received in the Office of the City General Services Officer, Iligan City, until Dec. 9, 2003 at 9:00 o'clock AM at which time and place same will be publicly opened to determine the lowest complying and most advantageous bid.

All bids must comply with the provisions of COA Circular No. 02-380 and accompanied by a Bidder's bond equal to at least 5% of the total bid price but not to exceed TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00) per bid proposal. Prospective bidders in need for further information may forward their inquiry to

The City General Services Officer
City Hall, Iligan City
Tel. Nos (063) 221-4340 or
(063) 516-759

All bids must be in Philippine currency. Bids not in Philippine currency will be disqualified.

The City Government of Iligan neither assumes any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The right is further reserved, as the best interest of the City Government of Iligan may require, to waive any informality or to reject any or all bids received, without assigning any reasons.

(Sgd.) FRANKLIN M. QUIJANO
City Mayor

(PDI-Nov. 24, 25 & 26, 2003)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
more than just a memorial park
Baynni Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig,
Metro Manila, 1632
(632) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112;
(632) 845-2341 or (632) 845-2342
sales@heritagepark.com.ph

MARIO RUBIO

peacefully joined our Creator on November 24, 2003 at the age of 48.

His loving wife **Zenaida** and children **Mary Grace**, **Marlone**, **Marianne**, **Mark Sammy** and **Maricelle** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 2130-A Int. 8 S. Trinidad, Tondo, Manila.

Interment will be announced later.

"In peace, I shall both lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord make me secure."

Our Dearly Beloved

JUANITA ISIP REYES

Peacefully joined her Creator on November 23, 2003 at the age of 75.

Her loving children **Raph** and **Herci**, **Joji**, **Jun** and **Beth**, **Ruel** and **Gemma**, **Joyce** and **Ferdie**; brothers and sisters; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Peter's Church (Tabitha & Lazaruz Rooms), Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City until Tuesday, November 25, 2003. She will then be transferred to the Reyes residence at 30 San Ramos, Dinalupihan, Bataan on Wednesday, November 26, 2003.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 29, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. after the Mass at St. Raymond Parish Church.

SEVERINA GENEVIEVE N. MUÑOZ

(widow of the late JUAN LUIS MUÑOZ)

Peacefully joined the Lord on November 22, 2003 at the age of 96.

Her bereaved children Minnie, Rose, Juanito and Meg, their spouses Titoy Razon, Alfonso Panopio (†), Lulu Lozano and Jesus Ponce (†); grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Novena Masses shall be held at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church in Magallanes Village on the following dates:

November 25-28, 2003 .... 7:00 PM
November 29, 2003 .... 1:00 PM
November 30, 2003 .... 1:30 PM
December 3, 2003 .... Special Mass at 7:00 PM

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

ARSENIO TEMPORAL TABUÑAR

of Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur
and Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City.

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 2[illegible] 2003 at the age of 7[illegible]

His wife Dr. Zarod Soleta; children Engr. Mildred & Raul Bernardino, Engr. Marianne & Noel Diaz & Dr. Scarlett Mia, grandchildren Lianne Carmell, Coleen Aira, Clarence Aira.

His remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, November 27, 2003 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
— John 3:16

Josefina A. Soriano-De Dios

of Tanza, Cavite
26 November 1910 - 23 November 2003

Peacefully joined her Creator on Sunday, 23rd of November 2003 at the age of 92.

Her children - **Dennis** and **Pat**; **Mimi** and **Boy**;
Lito and **Oyie**; **Noel** and **Lee**; **Eric** and **Tina**;
her grandchildren - **Donovan** and **Marissa**; **Iris** and **Albert**;
Dennis Alexis and **Carlos**; **Inky**, **Jenny**, and **Jeline**;
Mikki, **Kayzee**, and **Tanya**; **Gabriel** and **Rafael**;
and her great grandchildren-
Camille, **Miguel**, **Cheska**, **Stella**, **Kyle** and **Dana**;
her sister **Amelia**, and her relatives and friends request
fervent prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sta. Maria Della Strada Chapel,
Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, 27th of November 2003, 9 a.m.,
at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina, after the 7:30 a.m. Mass
at the Church of Sta. Maria Della Strada.

-~~~~~~~~~~~~~

So with a fall, lit and delight
And all gratitude I stay
Yet to press their hands and say-
Thanks -- so fine a time! Good Night!
— **James Whitcomb Riley**

THE PARTNERS, ASSOCIATES AND STAFF

OF

BENITEZ PARLADE AFRICA HERRERA PARLADE & PANGA LAW OFFICES (PABLAW)

mourn the untimely death of their

CO-FOUNDER & SENIOR PARTNER

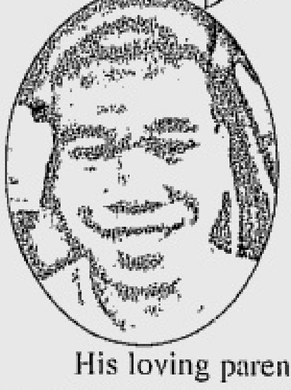
Dean AGUSTIN O. BENITEZ

who peacefully joined his Creator on November 22, 2003 at the age of 71.

His loving wife **Josefa Castro**; children **Jocelyn** & **Manny Alba**, **August** & **Irene**, **G.A.** & **Laean**, **Joji** and **Al Ng**, **Joanne** & **Mayang Valenzuela**, **Jonette** & **Rey Esquivias** and **Ralph** & **Lynn**; grandchildren **Denise**, **Robyn**, **Renren**, **Miko**, **Jorelle**, **Gayelle**, **Kyra** and **Justin**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, November 27, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Arlington Memorial Chapels.



"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Christian Cabangon Reyes

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 20, 2003 at the age of 20.

His loving parents **Les** & **Dina**; sisters **Celeste** & **Celesdina** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies at Felicidad Chapel, Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on November 26, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church, Cubao, Quezon City.

FIRST 10 MONTHS

BOI, Peza investments up 21.55% to ₱46.88B

By Michelle V. Remo

INVESTMENTS registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority and the Board of Investments rose by 21.55 percent in the first 10 months of the year to P46.88 billion from P38.56 billion in the same period last year.

Projects approved by the BOI reached P24.58 billion, or 37.42 percent higher than last year's figure.

Projects registered with the Peza, meanwhile, amounted to P22.298 billion, which was 21.55 percent higher than the last year's. Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II attributed the significant increase to the entry of big-ticket investments in September and October, which includes the P5 billion poured in by Petron Corp. for the upgrading of its refinery facilities to comply with the provisions of the Clean Air Act.

Other major investment projects approved during the first 10 months of the year include the following:

- P4.567-billion biomass and renewable energy project of Victoria's Bioenergy Inc.
- P3.964-billion gold mining project of Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co.
- P2.256-billion solar wafer project of Sunpower Philippines Manufacturing Ltd.
- P2.150-billion project of IT service provider Solid Broadband Corp.
- P1.808-billion integrated domestic terminal and container yard project of Asian Terminals Inc.

Roxas said the P11.71 billion worth of projects approved in October alone was an impressive 747-percent increase from that of the same month last year.

"All the different sectors are on the upswing," said Roxas.

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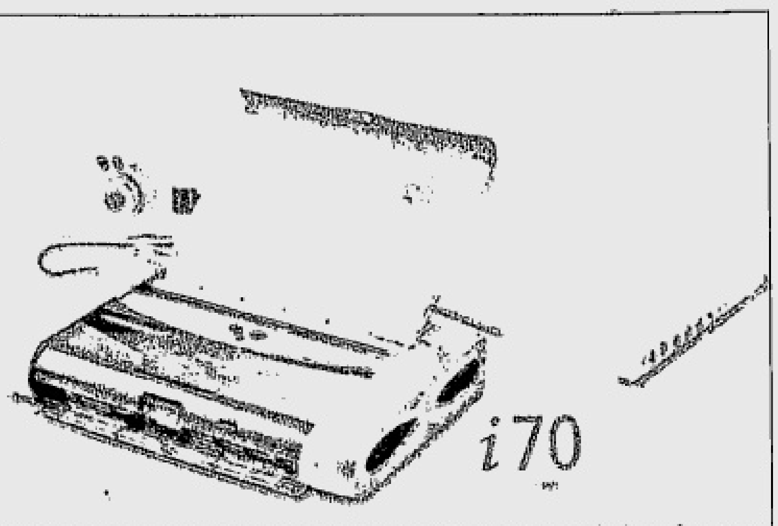

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PNOC agrees to market Semirara coal

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PNOC Exploration Corp., a subsidiary of the Philippine National Oil Company, has agreed to market the coal produced by Semirara Mining Corp. (SMC).

SMC vice president Francisco Aragon said that under the agreement, PNOC-EC would sell Semirara coal to other users such as cement manufacturing plants to boost sales and support the local coal industry.

Cement makers are heavy consumers of electricity, many of which have have their own power plants. Most of these plants run on coal.

"We started this effort early this year and this is mainly to support the local coal industry," PNOC-EC president Rufino B. Bomasang said.

In a July interview, Aragon said the country's only major coal producer expected production to go up by 50 percent this year due to its drive to expand its market.

He said the firm projected a total yield of 1.8 million metric tons by end-2003, an increase of 600,000 tons from 1.2 MT in 2002.

PNOC-EC, on the other hand, recently started coal production from the Integrated Little Baguio mine in Zamboanga del Sur to supply two cement factories in the Mindanao.

The Little Baguio mine, operated under a joint venture Taiwan Overseas Mining Corp., has a capacity to produce 225,000MT of coal every year.

Subic project a done deal, says envoy

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Kojiro Takano said the $215-million Subic Bay port development project should go on as planned as the economic loan agreement between the Philippines and Japan has already been signed.

"It is already a done deal. After the exchange of notes between Japan and the Philippine government, the loan agreement has been signed," a statement from the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority quoted Takano as saying during his visit to this freeport last week.

Takano described as "disturbing" the opposition to the port project. He said, however, he hoped that the opposition would die down and the project would be implemented.

Officials of Olongapo City opposed the project citing environmental concerns.

"I think we should go on with the project as planned. Everything is in place and has been thoroughly studied," Takano said.

SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo and Takano inspected the project site in Cubi Point.

Payumo said it would be embarrassing for both Japan and the Philippines should the port project be shelved.

"If the Official Development Assistance (ODA) for the project is pulled out, the repercussions would be very humiliating for both countries," Payumo added.

The project is funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

Takano also met with several Japanese investors led by Ichiro Tsuki, Subic Techno Park president, last Thursday. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

REALESTATE

E-mail: pr_real_estate@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

BY USING proper geotechnology (Eco-Mat), this slope and also the one below are protected from soil erosion.

Managing soil erosion vital to groundwork stability

By Charles E. Buban

DURING YOUR travel you must have encountered portions of a highway that have collapsed because the soil underneath has been washed away. Similar result may also happen in pieces of property located in slopes or near bodies of water.

Soil erosion occurs whenever water or wind meets land with enough force to move soil. It is a natural phenomenon as it has occurred over the millennia as part of geological processes and climate change.

The impact of soil erosion, however, has become much severe in recent years that something must be done to address its destructive impact.

In fact, the United Nations Population Fund

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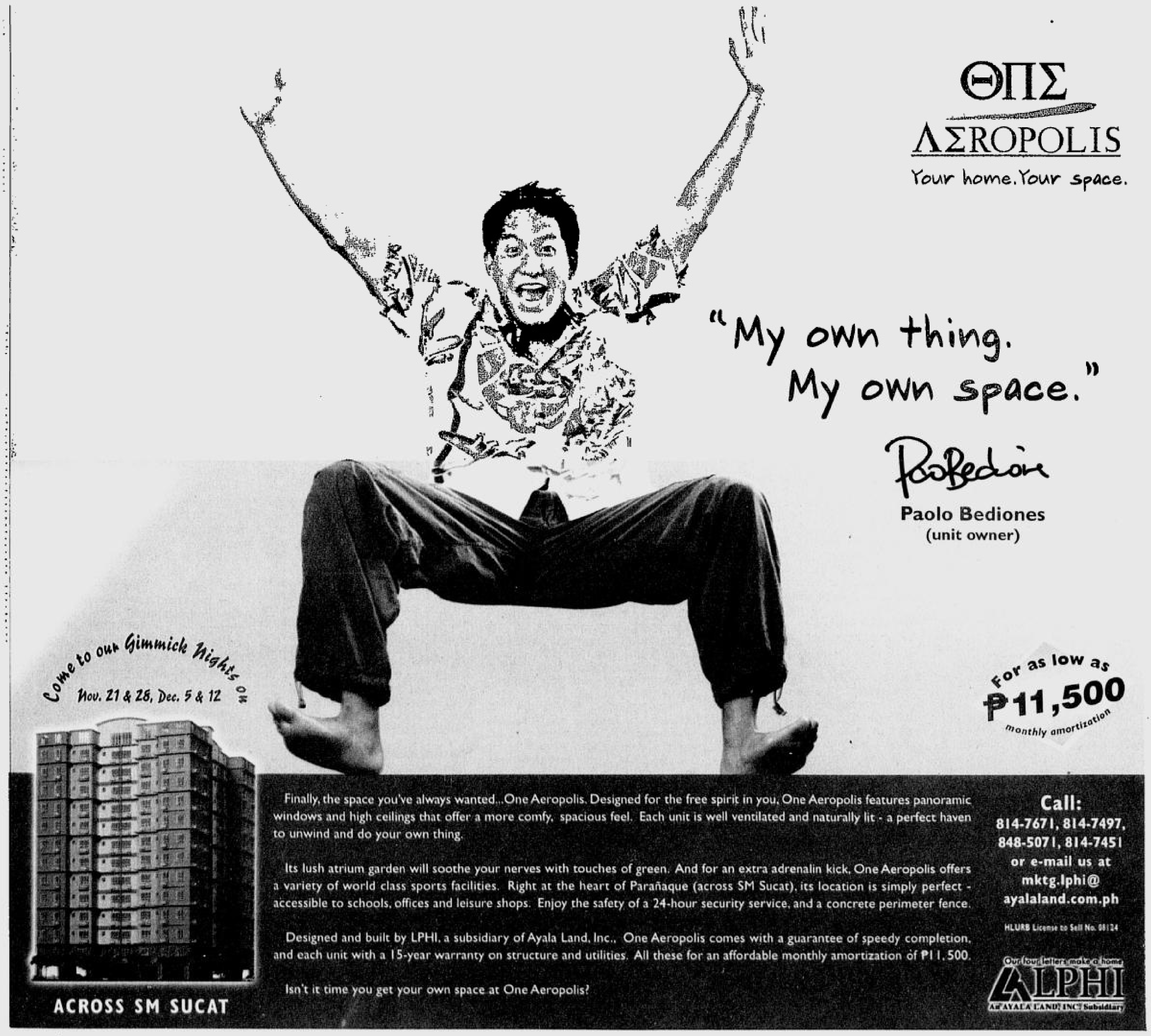

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Its lush atrium garden will soothe your nerves with touches of green. And for an extra adrenalin kick, One Aeropolis offers a variety of world class sports facilities. Right at the heart of Parañaque (across SM Sucat), its location is simply perfect - accessible to schools, offices and leisure shops. Enjoy the safety of a 24-hour security service, and a concrete perimeter fence.

Designed and built by LPHI, a subsidiary of Ayala Land, Inc., One Aeropolis comes with a guarantee of speedy completion, and each unit with a 15-year warranty on structure and utilities. All these for an affordable monthly amortization of ₱11,500.

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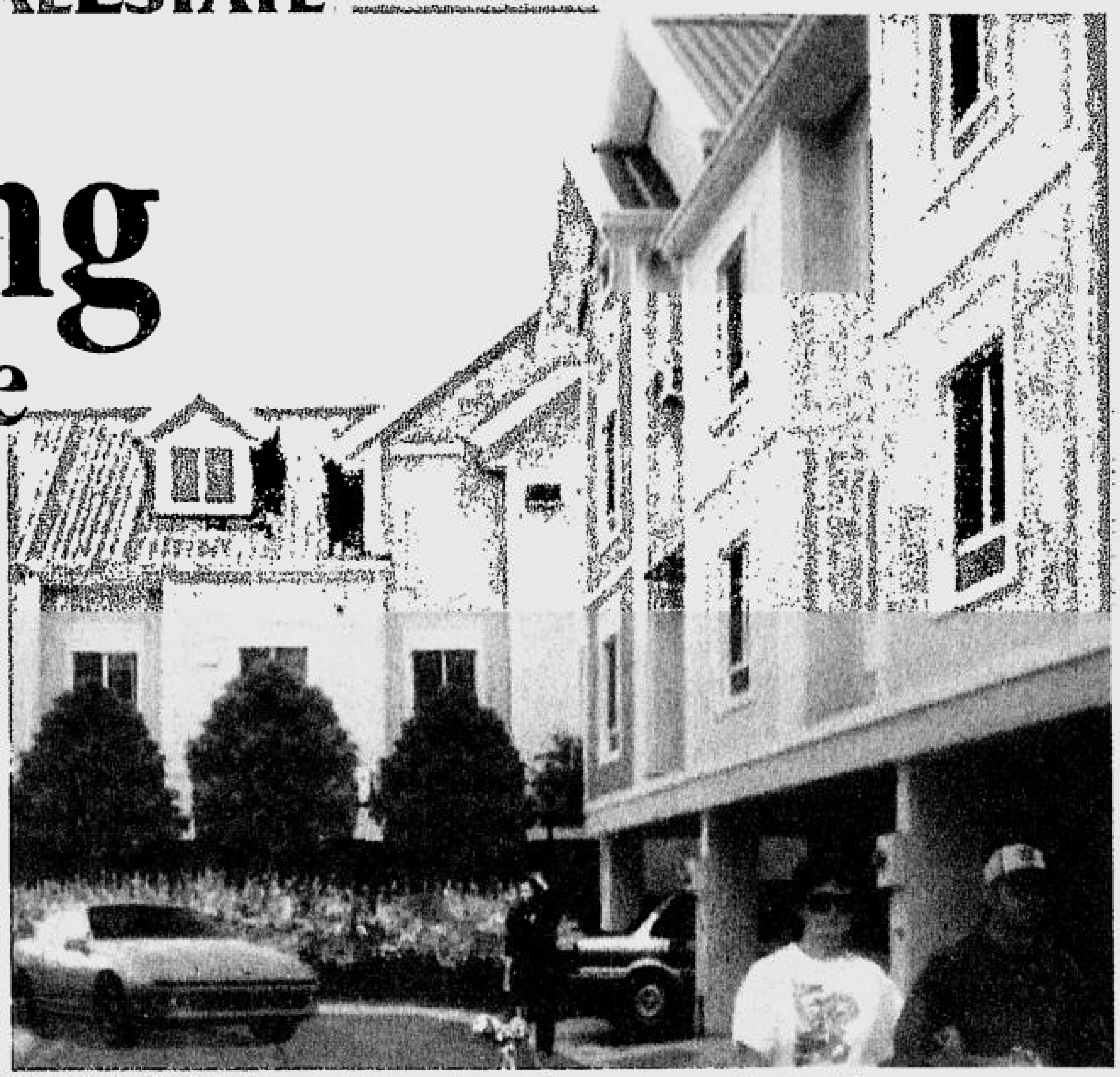


THE STRUCTURES didn't stop the developers from putting as much green as they wanted.

IT'S not every day when denizens of the metropolis can escape from the repetitive demands of modern living, to the comforting, liberating reaches of nature. Such an idea, however, isn't an impossible one, as Montgomery Place, Ayala Land's venture into premium townhouses, promises to make daily living a regular commune with nature.

Located at the heart of Quezon City, Montgomery Place features residences that emphasize the homeowner's need for a homey atmosphere and its corresponding conveniences. The site is already a wondrous sight to behold, and plans are currently being implemented for its further beautification.

Jose Juan Jugo, Ayala Land Inc.'s division manager of Residential Buildings Group, expounds on the project's landscaping enhancements:

"The land is 7.5 hectares. We try to put as much greenery in every open space as we can. We're in the process of selecting with the architects and landscapers, looking at different nurseries and trying to see which types of trees are suitable, given our parameters and requirements."

Landscape creativity

Montgomery Place is very conducive for landscape creativity, as 50 percent of the development space is allotted for it. This allows more than ample room for improvement opportunities. "It's very flat terrain, so there's no need for extraordinary measures to plant trees. We just have to find the correct species or combination of plants to get the design we want," said Jugo.

There have been no hitches in designing and implementing the landscaping. The only limitations are those involving the sizes, kinds, or growth periods of trees. Very big ones, for instance, cannot be integrated because of the existing structures. The structures, however, didn't stop the developers from putting as much green as they wanted.

Montgomery Place features residences that emphasize the homeowner's need for a homey atmosphere and its corresponding conveniences

Esthetic cultivation

"Whatever we cannot landscape, we will hardscape," Jugo adds. Key portions of the roads will be decorated with designs and patterns made of stamp concrete to make them look more visually interesting. Character is also added into the sidewalks, which will be enhanced with artistry using various stones.

And the esthetic cultivation doesn't stop there. "We're going to the extent of landscaping even private property. We're going to put vines crawling on trellises within private property, with the owner's approval, of course. We're doing it out of our own volition, free of charge," according to Jugo.

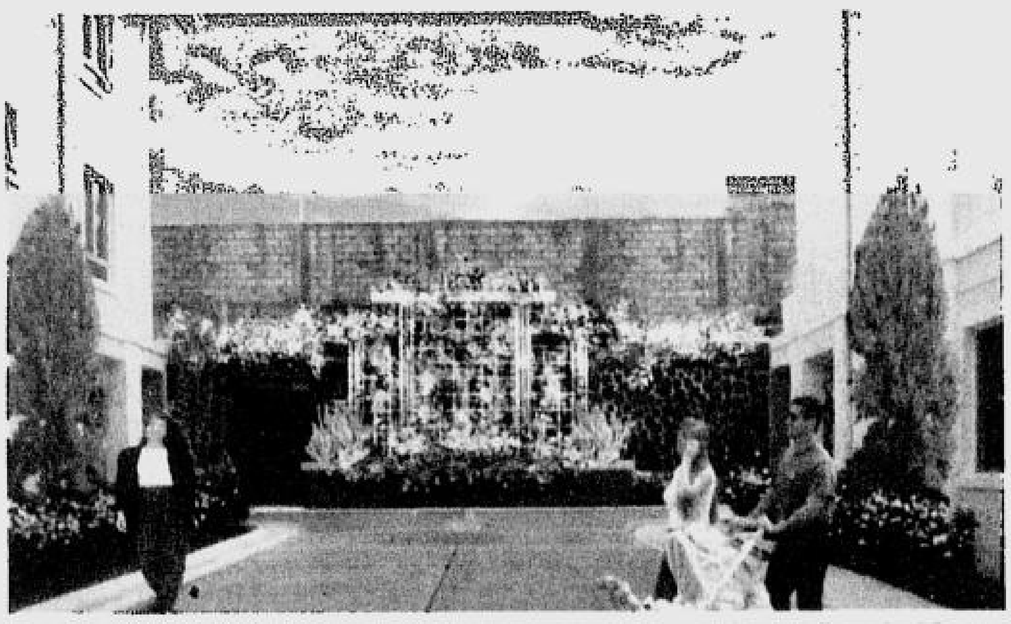
While various parts of Montgomery Place are already replete with well-tended vegetation, certain walls and other bare spaces will be strategically jutted with carefully crafted flower boxes and more trellises. These will add more visual texture to the already-soothing colors of the townhouses.

Commitment

Utilizing the full potential of the area exemplifies Ayala Land's commitment to exploring all possible avenues to address specific needs of the market. Upon careful analysis of these needs, much attention is given to beneficial modifications. This focus in landscaping and beautification further upgrades the already high standards inherent in the company's implemented master plan.

New homeowners have found a suitable place, aptly enough, in this environment that neatly combines all these quality-centric details.

Montgomery Place has provided respite from the hustle-and-bustle of city life, its growing community of residents discovering on a daily basis that to experience the touch of precious flora needn't bring one to faraway outskirts.



CERTAIN walls and other bare spaces will be strategically jutted with carefully crafted flower boxes and more trellises.

Ayala Land supports Capitol Hills members' call for transparency

By Jerry Esplanada

(Last of two parts)

AYALA Land Inc. has expressed full support to a call by Capitol Hills and Golf and Country Club members for transparency in the Quezon City firm's financial deals with the property giant.

Ayala Land, the country's largest and most experienced real estate developer, also cited Capitol's "vigilant membership" for their move.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, the Makati City-based corporation said it "supports any action for better corporate governance."

Ayala Land also believes that "greater participation by the individual members in managing the affairs of the club with greater value for every member.

"Therefore, a vigilant membership is a valuable asset which should be encouraged in management accountability to members and should always be a fundamental part of any organization's long-term strategy," the firm added.

Transparency

A group of Capitol Hills minority shareholders had earlier urged Ayala Land to compel the golf club in making a full disclosure of the financial details of their joint project, the Ayala Hillside Estates in Old Balara, Quezon City.

According to former Ambassador Eusebio Abaquin and Popoy Flores, among other club members, all they were asking was "transparency."

Ayala Land's advances to Capitol Hills totaled P408,073,941 (including accrued interest of P167.5 million) in December 2002, according to files of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Managing soil erosion. . .

From page C1

reported that we lose 5 million to 7 million hectares of farm lands due to soil erosion and other forms of land degradation each year.

At present, soil erosion has already affected almost 2 billion hectares of arable and grazing land—an area larger than that of the United States and Mexico combined.

Sitting on a time bomb

"Failure to address soil erosion is like sitting on a time bomb. A landslide caused by soil erosion can damage life and properties and during floods or heavy downpour, soil erosion may result in homes, roads and other man-made structures getting washed away," warned Root-Systems Corp. geotechnical engineer Eugene Leo Lapore during the Philconstruct 2003 event organized by LA Ducut and Co. early this month.

Lapore works for a Davao City-based firm specializing on advanced engineering geotechnologies in protecting slopes, river banks, building mechanically stabilized earth-retaining walls and channel linings.

His expertise is a specialized branch of civil engineering that blends the scientific analyses of soil and rock with the experience of the engineer to find practical solutions to problems of planning, design and construction.

"Simply put, our firm is one of the few companies here in the country whose main job is to protect properties and certain areas from the damaging effect of soil erosion," explained Lapore.

Various means

Root-Systems uses products of various leading companies in advanced geotechnology like the ACE geogrids and Presto Geoweb Cellular Confinement System.

ACE geogrids are woven mesh made from high-strength polyester yarns coated with UV-resistant PVC to prevent biodecomposition and attack by acids and alkalis. Its mesh structure varies in size depending on the specifications and use.

The Geoweb Cellular Confinement System, on the other hand, resembles a beehive's hollow cell structure. It is placed on the ground so that its spaces are filled with soil to improve ground stability and resistance against erosion.

Other alternative solution

In these times when environmental impact is given more weight, manufacturers also have developed other alternatives to address soil erosion and ground strengthening.

Bioengineering becomes vital as it uses living plant materials in line with light engineering materials for erosion control. It is now regarded as a more environmentally sensitive alternative to classical engineering practices.

So apart from synthetic materials, Root-Systems has also offered coir-based products, which perform similarly or even better from their synthetic counterparts.

These products, the Eco-Log and Eco-Mat, are made of coir fiber, obtained from coconut husk, which is a highly recommended material for biodegradable erosion control products.

These coir erosion control products are manufactured by Biofaser Fibers for Root-Systems and have been used extensively in the United States and Japan for the past 10 years as a tool in soil erosion problem.

From coco coir

Eco-Mat is made out of coco coir, woven by a machine and binded with coir twines. This 100 percent biodegradable woven blanket provides higher resistance upon installation while supporting growth and development of vegetation.

Eco-Log is also made from 100 percent coir fiber and bound by a coir fiber netting and is totally biodegradable. Eco-Log is produced with diameters of 20, 30, 40 and 50 cm, and length of one to six meters.

Size specifications can be changed or adjusted to suit individual requirements.

"Coir fiber decomposes slowly, making it perfectly suited for bioengineered products aimed at controlling soil erosion. It promotes fast growth of vegetation and helps trap topsoil nutrients and even serves as a natural filter. This product is cost-efficient," described Cynthia Orcasitas of Biofaser Fibers.

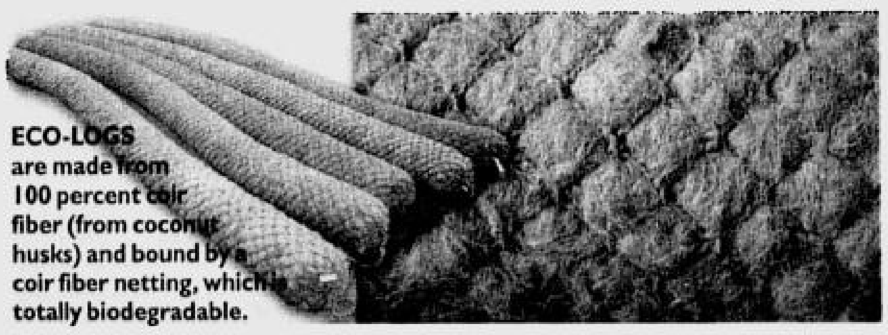
Eco-Log can be attached at the edge of a riverbank or a streambank and secured by wooden pegs or live stake or are stacked against the banks of the creek to facilitate revegetation, protect property and trees and provide esthetic value to the environment.

Natural-looking solution

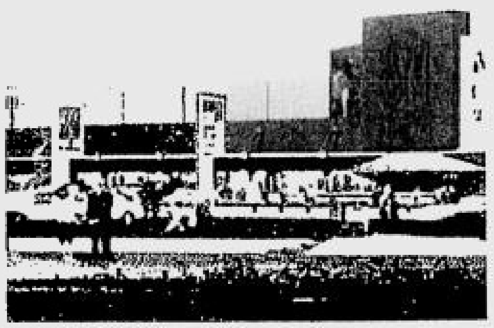
"Using this products for flood or high water damage in streams and lakes provides a more natural-looking solution than traditional rip rap or concrete structures," Lapore explained.

He cited several other advantages: low-cost and lower long-term maintenance cost than traditional methods; improved strength over time as root systems develop; and compatibility with environmentally sensitive sites or sites with limited access.

"Homeowners who have streamside or lakeside property, contractors who are required to work in difficult environmental circumstances or professionals interested in natural restoration of landscapes will find this bioengineering technique useful ," assured Lapore.



ECO-LOGS are made from 100 percent coir fiber (from coconut husks) and bound by a coir fiber netting, which is totally biodegradable.



SM CITY Marilao

SM City Marilao opens Friday

SM CITY Marilao, the 17th SM Supermall, will be open to the public on Nov. 28.

Strategically located in a sprawling 203,398 square-meter property on MacArthur Highway, SM City Marilao is situated on a thoroughfare leading to other heavily populated towns like Meycauayan, Obando, Bocaue and San Jose del Monte.

Although still agricultural in nature, Marilao is rapidly converting its land into residential and industrial sites as evidenced by the presence of 63 residential subdivisions and 52 factories.

SM City Marilao will have 89,338 sq m and two levels of great shopping, leisure and entertainment.

The mall's design and construction team includes Design International, a foreign design consultant for the mall; W. V. Coscolluela and Associates, architects; New Gold City Builders, general contractor; and I. A. Campbell and Associates, project manager.

Shopping, eating out

Residents in Marilao and nearby towns can look forward to shopping at the SM Department Store and the Super SM Hypermarket. The supermall will have SM mainstays like the SM Appliance Center, ACE Hardware, Our Home, Watsons Personal Care Store, Surplus Shop and Toy Kingdom as well as fashion boutiques, jewelry and home stores, novelty shops and service outlets. It will also have computer and telecom stores for the cyber generation.

Eating out options include good food...fast at the SM Food Court as well as an exciting mix of international food chains like Pizza Hut, KFC, Wendy's and Dunkin' Donuts; local food chains like Greenwich, Tropical Hut, Chowking and Max's as well as cool restos like Tokyo-Tokyo, Popeye's Chicken, Coffee Beanery, Fito Mixx and Nacho Fast.

The mall will have four state of the art cinemas with a total seating capacity of 2,231 as well as amusement centers. Shoppers will have ample space with 771 slots.

Creba lauds Defensor, Bagatsing for housing reforms

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate and Builders' Associations has expressed its appreciation to the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council led by Chair Michael T. Defensor and Vice Chair Amado S. Bagatsing for its "all-out support" to the housing industry. The HUDCC is vigorously carrying out President Macapagal-Arroyo's housing program.

In a press briefing, Creba national president Florentino S. Dulalia Jr. said, "It is with a deep sense of appreciation that we, the outgoing Creba board of directors, cite the various positive actions of the government housing sector, particularly Messrs. Michael Defensor and Amado Bagatsing." Creba is holding the annual election of its board of directors on Nov. 29.

During the Creba-HUDCC national convention last month, Creba had presented President Macapagal with a resolution of "sincere and wholehearted gratitude for the enormous support she has given the housing and real estate sector to make the industry economically viable again," expressing the hope "this kind of support will continue for many more years to come."

On that occasion, Dulalia said: "No other President or administration, it can truly be said, has devoted as much time, effort and support to the housing and real estate sector as President Arroyo has done.

Vital role

"Being conversant with economics and assisted by the government's panel of experts, the President must have realized the vital role of the industry in overall economic development and the life of the people. For economic planners are convinced that of the pump-priming influence of the housing and real estate sector on the national economy."

Particularly praising the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board Resolution 749 of 2003 as "a landmark achievement," Creba said it scrapped the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) conversion order as a precondition for the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board to issue the certificates of registration and license to sell to housing developers. This will apply to residential, commercial, industrial and other similar development purposes as provided in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan approved pursuant to Macapagal's Executive Order 77.

Said Dulalia: "This action represented a triumph for the housing industry, the housing program and the homeless people. This is the kind of support that the housing sector needs from the government, that will enable developers to increase housing production and delivery."

Creba also lauded the approval by HUDCC of P750,000 as price ceiling for low-cost housing to accommodate homebuyers who can afford house-and-lot packages beyond the previous P500,000 ceiling.

Other policy reforms

Creba cited the other policy reforms and initiatives of President Macapagal through the HUDCC:

- Reduction of interest rates for the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund) retail lending program from 9 percent to 12 percent for open-priced housing;
- Reduction of documentary requirements of HDMF housing loan program from 19 to 12 and processing time to an average of seven working days;
- Increased loan-to-collateral ratio for accounts under the HDMF buy-back agreement with developers;
- Increased ceiling for acquisition of undeveloped lot from P60,000 to P80,000 in Metro Manila and other highly urbanized areas and for other areas from P30,000 to P45,000;
- Facilitation of the issuance of Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas circulars to encourage private banks to lend to housing by scrapping minimum equity contribution of end-user financing and granting the Agri-agra reserve eligibility for new housing loans;
- Streamlining the processing time for the issuance of housing-related permits and Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECC) for socialized housing and other priority projects from 90 days to 30-45 days and reduced signatories for the approvals of said projects from 288 to 40 through Executive Order 45.

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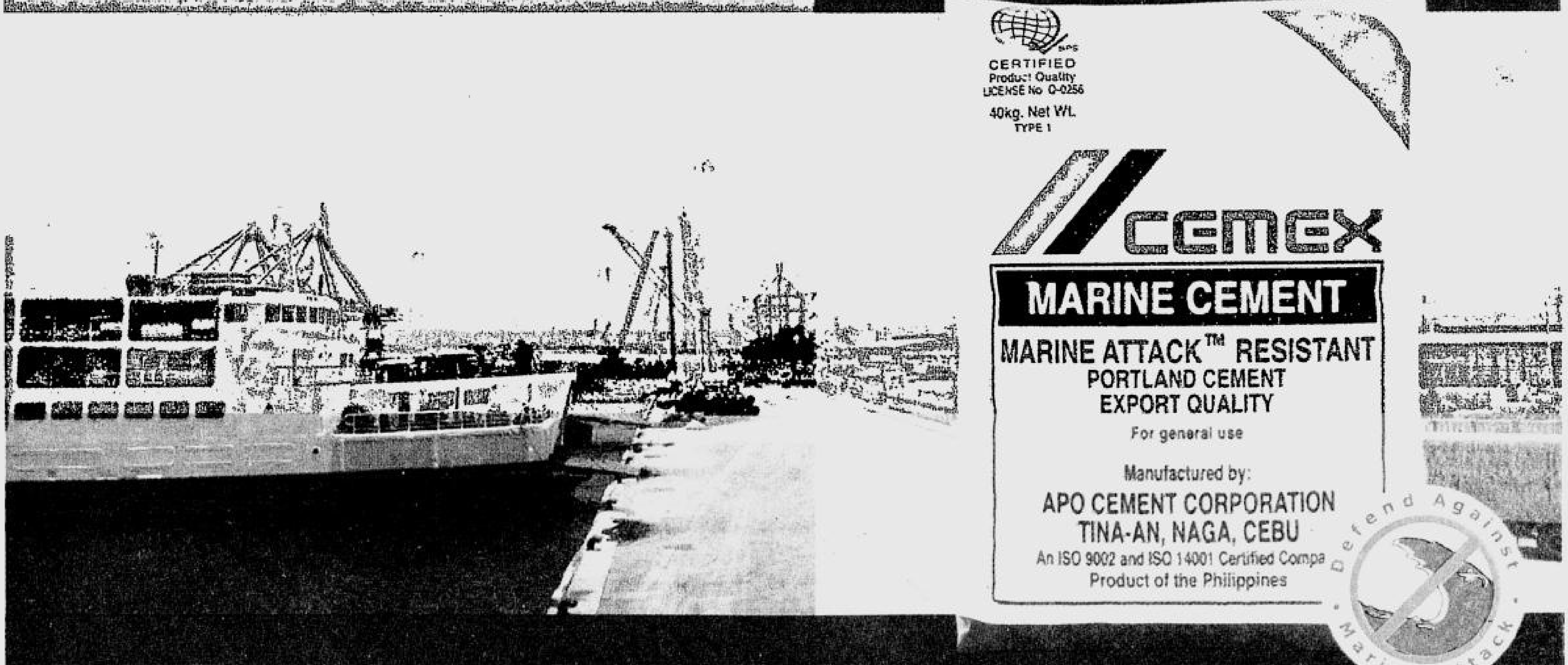

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GMA VISITS PUYAT STEEL BOOTH
President Macapagal-Arroyo signs the registry book presented by Puyat Steel Corp. vice president and general manager Salvio D. Perez at the PSC booth during the opening day of the Philconstruct trade Exhibit. The President greeted exhibitors like Puyat Steel for their continuing thrust to promote world-class Philippine-made products.

BUILDING DREAMS

How a subdivision is designed

By Alexis A. Acacio

(First of two parts)

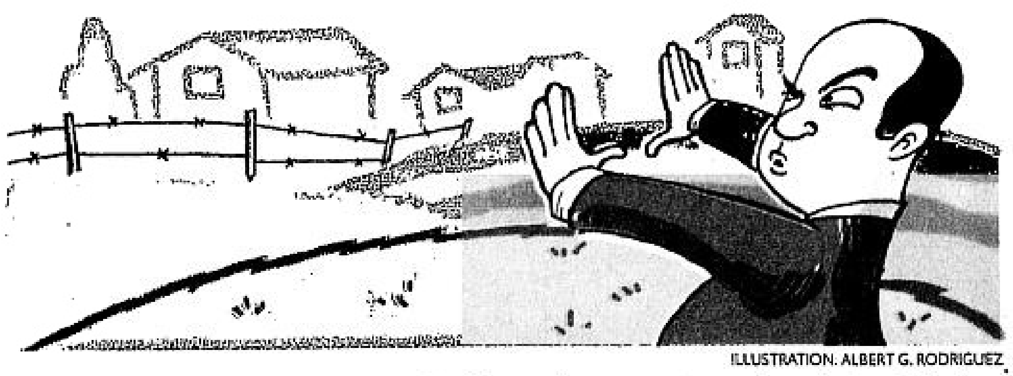

ILLUSTRATION. ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

MANY of our readers have inquired on how they can use the idle lots that they have. Some of them have several hectares of land and would want to develop them into saleable subdivision lots.

Yes, designing and building a subdivision may look simple but it involves a lot of individual processes in order to complete. These various processes include:

Feasibility study

The feasibility of the project can be divided into four major components:

- *Market Feasibility.* The first step that is to analyze who the end users or buyers will be. A thorough market analysis is needed to make sure that the finished lots will be bought in the end. The market study analyzes the demographics of the end users as well as the characteristics that the area can offer. Observing adjacent pieces of property or developments in the area can also provide valuable information for the developer.
- *Financial Feasibility.* The project cost and the benefits expected are assessed. For the financial investor, this is the most important aspect of the study. With this, the project can be assessed whether it can be profitably attractive or not.
- *Technical Feasibility.* The feasibility study also covers conducting a preliminary design in order to have a preliminary cost. In this phase, the expertise of planners and real estate advisers to plan your project are brought in. The basic requirements of the project are then established.
- *Operational Feasibility.* The project should be easy to operate. If a clubhouse with swimming pools is to be built, the operation and maintenance should be considered. The costs of building and maintaining the area should also be assessed.

Detailed design

After the feasibility studies prove that the project is viable and profitable, then all systems go to pursue the project and it is now time to move on to the detailed design phase. In this phase, the design plans for the construction of the project are done. These processes involves:

- *Relocation Plan.* The geodetic engineer does this work and locates all of the property boundaries to ensure that there are no encroachments to and of adjacent pieces of property. Old property monuments may have moved and it is necessary that the boundaries be relocated again. The specific dimensions of the lot are then plotted and the proper partitioning is studied.
- *Topographic Plan.* This plan shows the overall topography of the area that emphasizes the various elevations and their measurements. Any depressions such as low-lying areas or elevated portions such as small hills can be seen in the topographic map. The topographic map will also help the marketing group in coming out with a scale model of the subdivision.
- *Master Development Plan.* Done by an experienced planner, the overall development plan identifies the location of the roads, facilities, clubhouse, residential location, commercial spaces, churches and the like. Several revisions are usually done upon constant consultation with the end users as well as the technical and legal team. The success of the project relies heavily on how well the project is planned.

The new development is laid out in relation to other developments so that it would also conform to the overall character of the area.

- *Environmental Assessment.* A large subdivision development will surely affect the environment and it is important that its effect be kept to a minimum. Government regulations require that a detailed analysis of the effect of the new development be done. Solutions on how to minimize damage to the environment should be addressed.
- *Engineering Plans.* The various specialties of engineering are involved in this phase. The geotechnical engineer makes sure that the ground is safe and stable and can support the weight of the roads, bridges and the structures that are to be built in the area. The road engineer makes sure that the roads are properly designed and that blind corners are avoided. The water resources engineer takes care of the water supply and drainage systems of the development. The environmental engineer sees to it that waste materials are properly disposed of and that the natural environment is properly protected. The structural engineer designs the structure and the electrical engineer plans the power facilities of the area. These are just a few of the many design professionals involved.

There is a vast interchange of ideas by the various professional fields to make sure that the project is properly designed. Constant coordination by a project manager is required.

Government permits

After the detailed plans are complete, the necessary government permits have to be secured. This would involve getting clearances to build from the local government units (LGUs) and the concerned government agencies that are responsible for housing. A license to sell is also required for the project. Environmental clearances are also required in this phase.

After the necessary government permits are obtained, then the actual construction can now commence. This will be our topic for next week.

(E-mail the author at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph.)

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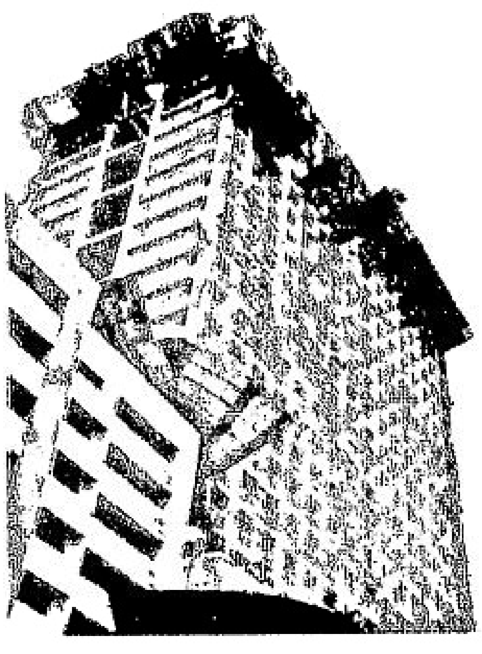

NOW 40% COMPLETE
Construction has reached the 27th level and excavation has been completed for the 39-story Greenbelt Parkplace, a luxury residential development of property giant Megaworld Corp. and Pan Pacific Industrial Sales Co. on Carlos Palaca and Gil Streets in MakatiCity. The development is set for completion by the fourth quarter of 2005.

MUNCHKINS on a Stick
P24
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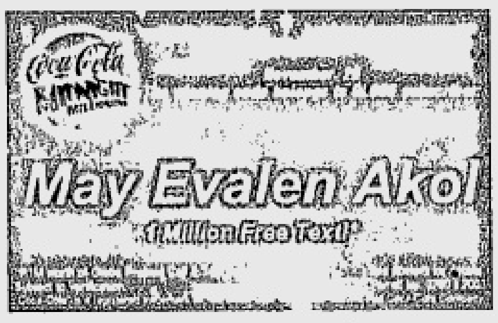

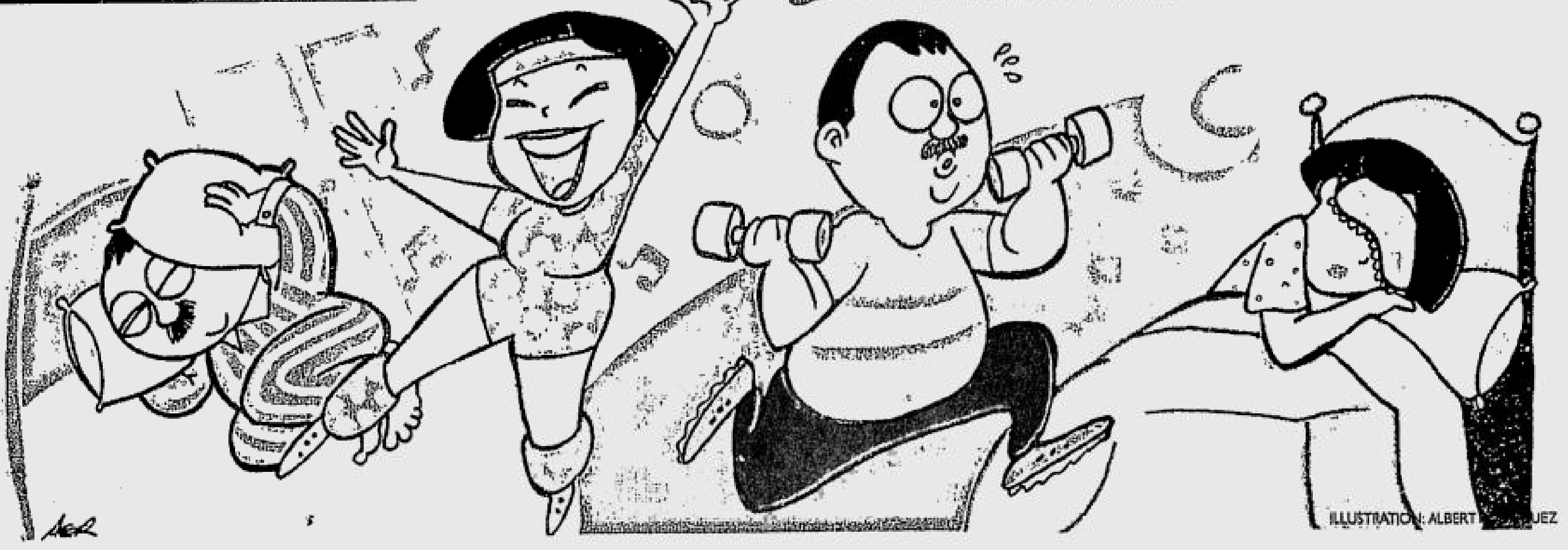

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT [illegible]UEZ

The field of exercise science is still young, but here are the latest findings

When is the best time to exercise?

Part 1

WELL AND GOOD
Tina Juan

WHEN it comes to convenience and practicality, any time that you can stick to regularly is the right time to exercise.

If you are currently exercising in the morning, afternoon or evening, and this schedule works for you and you feel you have enough energy and enthusiasm for your workouts, don't change anything.

However, if you have been dragging yourself to exercise and you are wondering if switching to another time of the day would make you feel better, here are the latest studies on the best time to exercise.

Now, mind you, experts do not always agree with each other because this field of exercise science is still developing.

Circadian rhythms

According to the American Council on Exercise (ACE), our bodies follow a daily cycle called the circadian rhythms, which regulate everything from body temperature and metabolism to blood pressure.

ACE explains that these rhythms have conformed to our 24-hour light-to-dark cycle, and may be regulated and re-regulated each day according to the environment.

Dr. David Hill of the University of North Texas says, "Our bodies' rhythms are inborn, but we reset them every day when our alarm goes off, when we eat our meals and when we exercise."

Whenever you change one of those things, your body reacts like it is undergoing jet lag. He says your body learns to be fittest at whatever time of day you usually put it to work. So if you're off schedule take it easy because your stamina may be a bit lower.

This can make a lot of difference during a competitive athletic event, so ACE recommends you should train for an upcoming event at the same time you will be competing in it. ACE mentions research that shows the ability to maintain sustained exercise is adaptive to circadian rhythms.

In other words, consistently training in the morning will allow you to sustain exercise during a morning marathon longer than if you train in the evening.

Are you a lark or an owl?

If you wake up instantly in the morning with a cheerful attitude to boot, but fade away quickly early in the evening, you are definitely a lark.

If you have a hard time waking up and can't even talk for the next hour, but are alive and energetic at night, you are an owl. For obvious reasons, larks feel better with morning exercise and owls work out better in the late afternoon or early evening.

But what if you are a lark who has to beat the traffic rush to get to work and you can only work out in the afternoon? Or what if you are an owl who comes home too late at night and can only exercise in the morning?

If this is your situation, don't despair. Your body can adapt to almost any condition if you give it enough time.

Hill recommends giving yourself at least one month to adjust if you have to switch exercise schedules from morning to afternoon or vice-versa. I know this is possible because I am not a morning person but for reasons of convenience, I have taught a 7 a.m. exercise class for more than 10 years.

People stronger in the afternoon

Your workout is affected the most by the influence of circadian rhythms on body temperature, says ACE.

You get the best workout when your body temperature is at its highest and you get a slightly less than optimal workout when your temperature is low. ACE says that for most people, body temperature is at its lowest about one to three hours before waking up in the morning, and it is at its highest in the late afternoon.

In his research, Hill found that strength is about five percent greater around noon. Aerobic capacity, meanwhile, increases by about four percent in the afternoon.

Anaerobic performance (rapid intense activities like sprinting or jumping for a basketball) also improves by five percent in the afternoon. This

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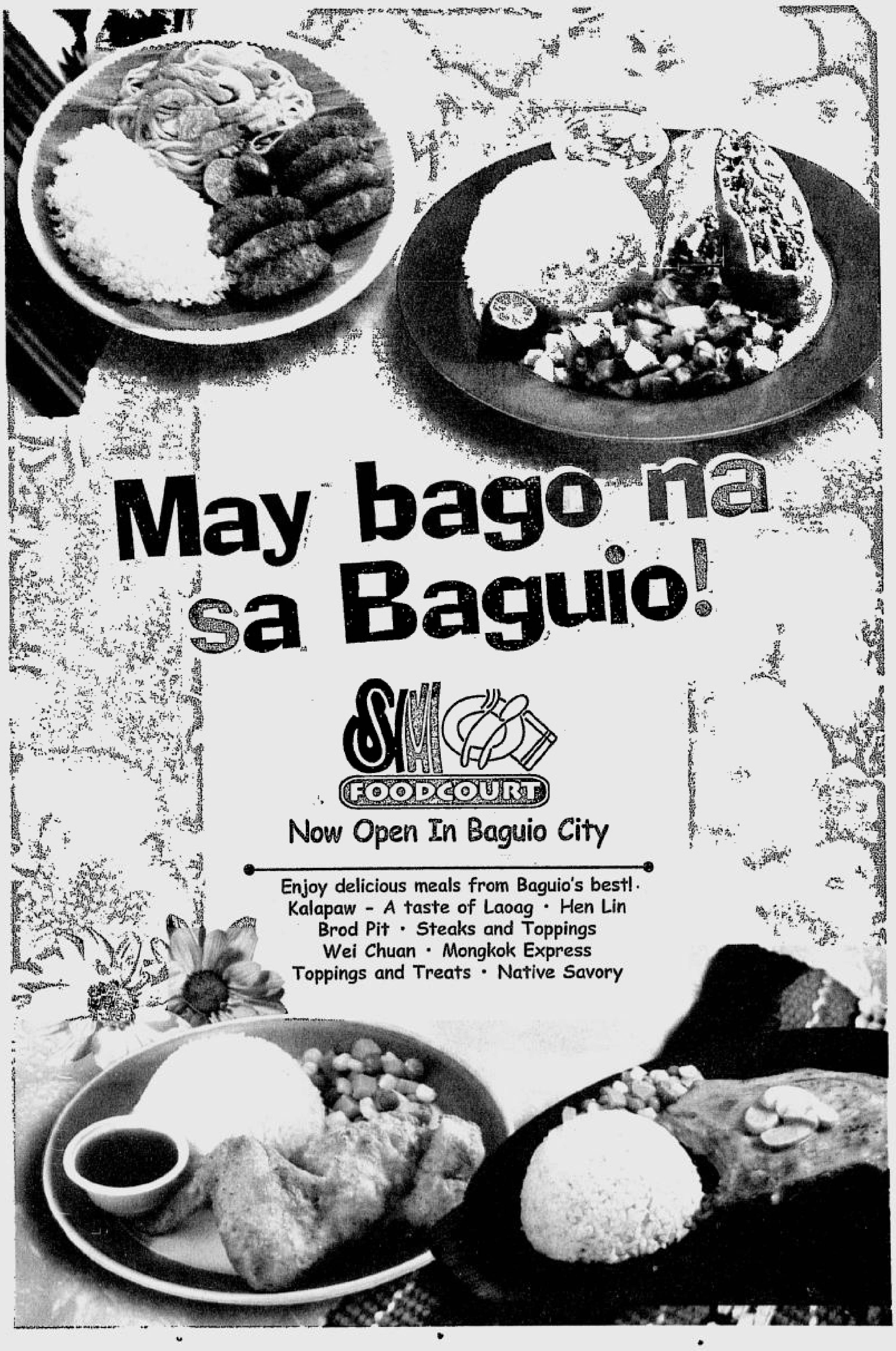

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FASHIONISTA 2k3 judges Rajo Laurel, *moi*, Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Tim Yap with grand prize winner Mark Gilbert Marpuri (in blue) and his model

FIRST RUNNER-UP. "Go [illegible]" by Fitzgerald Cunanan of Golden Hands Fashion and Arts School

Marvelous Maksim, a Kwang Tong new year, and Wild Vines' fashion drama

I RECENTLY found myself in Ayala Center on an early night to watch and listen to fabulous classical music played by the amazing pianist **Maksim Mrvica** at the world-class Greenbelt 3 Park, dahlings.

The thrilling one-hour concert showcased Maksim's intense, dramatic piano-playing skills. He played cuts from his debut album like Rimsky-Korsakov's "Flight of the Bumble Bee," "Exodus," "Chopin Nocturne" and "Croatian Rhapsody," among others.

There were screams, shrieks and thunderous applause all throughout the performance, *palanggas*.

In the audience were high-society faces mixing beautifully with everyday folks, all of them having one thing in common: a love for classical music—or, more properly, classical crossover, as played by Maksim.

After the concert, there was a mad rush to get Maksim's CD at Music One, on the second floor of the mall.

We heard that due to the enthusiastic response of the audience that night, a full-fledged Maksim concert is being considered next year.

Please, pretty please, make that concert come true for all of us, *palanggas*.

Maksim Live in Concert at Greenbelt was another first for the Ayala malls, which deserved so much kudos along with other sponsors like Globe Telecom, Yamaha, Joey 92.3 FM, Discovery Suites, Yupangco Music Corp., Asian Events Directors Inc., EMI Records and Tavern on the Square.

Early Chinese New Year

It seems like everyone is in a rush these days, dahlings.

Even the Chinese New Year has come early with the launch of Kwang Tong, super businessman **George Pua's** newest culinary venture, right on his very birthday.

Kwang Tong is the latest food destination in Glorietta 4's glittering roster of restos and bars. This early, it's proving to be a major crowd-drawer with its yummy assortments of dimsum and other authentic Cantonese dishes.

Manille's partying set came in full force and with full appetites for the Chinese New Year-themed opening, dolled up in their exquisite Chinese best. The 500 or so invitees promptly threw all calorie cautions to the wind to sample the resto's opening lauriat.

A lion dance and Buddhist ceremony came right before dinner, with the seven monkeys of Chinese folklore offering gifts of fruit, bread and flowers to Kwang Tong's resident Buddha, while models dressed as Chinese gods and goddesses welcomed the guests.

Tres visible were top manager **Michael Lu**; chefs **Nip Sing Hing** and **Arthur Tangco**; and George's mother, **Paula**.

Traffic-stopping party girl **Tessa Prieto-Valdes** and stunning celebrity **Cindy Kurleto** were the guests of honor, and they definitely proved to be the night's most cordial co-hosts, along with the mega owners, of course.

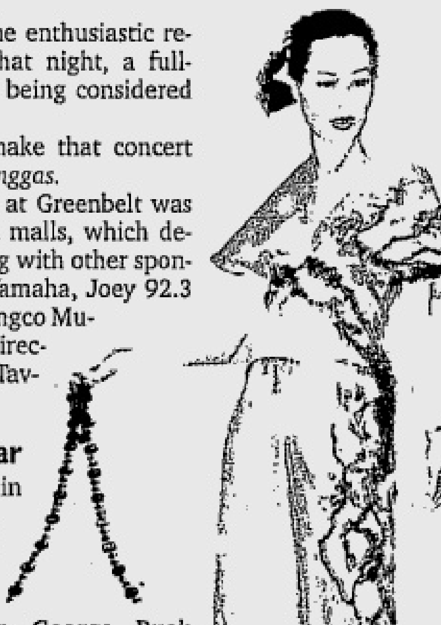
George, who used to be active in theater, also invited some prominent stage and movie personalities, among them **EJ Villacorta, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Audie Gemora, Michael Williams, Miriam Quiambao, Malik, Roselle Nava, Wency Cornejo, Meryl Soriano, Arnel Ignacio** and talent manager **Wyngard Tracy**.

For extra fun, the night's best-dressed guests were rewarded for their efforts. Twins **Richard** and **Simon Liu** won second runner-up in their twin yellow outfits, while EJ Villacorta was adjudged first runner-up for her shimmering black get-up.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by
Alex Van Hagen
on Kodak Max



CROWD favorite. "The Vineyard" by Dimple Lim of the Philippine International School of Fashion

MAKSIM Mrvica acknowledges the cheers of the Greenbelt 3 Park crowd

The Croatian pianist's recent concert at the world-class Greenbelt 3 Park was a thrilling, breathtaking experience

Naturally, the first prize went to none other than Tessa V., who bagged a free trip for two to Hong Kong. Some girls have all the luck, natch!

Check out Kwang Tong's sumptuous Cantonese cuisine at the 2/F Glorietta 4 Restaurant Row. You'll love it, promise.

New breed of designers

Raw, bold and untamed—that's the best way to describe E&J Gallo's Wild Vines which, for the past years now, has been holding a fashionista night to showcase upcoming young designers.

This year was no different, *palanggas*. A fashion design contest called "Fashionista 2k3" was held recently, featuring the creations of hip, talented student finalists from the University of the Philippines, University of Sto. Tomas, Cora Doloroso Career Center, College of the Holy Spirit, DLSU College of St. Benilde, Far Eastern University, Golden Hands Fashion and Arts School and the Philippine International School of Fashion.

The Andresons Group, exclusive local distributors of Wild Vines, gave all-out support to this fab event.

E&J Gallo's hotshot executives like **Andy Hicks,** sales director for South and Southeast Asia, and **Loretta Lee,** marketing manager, also jetted in to witness the fashion show.

The night showcased the creativity of 16 finalists who stood out from over 300 entries, as their creations addressed the question, "If Wild Vines is to make a fashion statement, what will it look like?"

What made it even more charming, *palanggas*, was that the finalists' designs were modelled beautifully by non-professional models!

They, and the clothes they carried, were cheered lustily by a large crowd of teachers, students, friends and supporters who collectively gave the show a throbbing energy.

Many of the designs alluded to or personified the distinct character and taste of Wild Vines' variations, like Strawberry White Zinfandel, Peach Chardonnay, Blackberry Merlot and Raspberry Zinfandel.

The judges included **Renee Salud, Rajo Laurel, Tim Yap,** Tessa Valdes, **Les Reyes** and *moi*.

We all had a hard time deciding on the winners, but finally we came up with **John Paul Rangel** from UP Diliman, second runner-up; **Fitzgerald Cunanan** from Golden Hands Fashion and Arts School, first runner-up; and **Mark Gilbert Marpuri** from Cora Doloroso, grand prize winner.

Garnering the "Crowd Favorite" award was **Dimple Lim** from the Philippine International School of Fashion.

The awards were given out by Andresons' managing director for international brands **Von Hizon,** assisted by **Lloyd Dizon,** product manager for E&J Gallo.

Watching this show was like a glimpse into the future, *palanggas*. It made us hope for a time when fashion would have become, not just a way of dressing up, but a true celebration of one's individuality and the cosmopolitan way of life.

DEAN of RP fashion Ben Farrales, with son Cesar, graced the night to offer encouragement to the young designers.

SECOND runner up. "Come Out in Print" by John Paul Rangel of UP Diliman

"WILD Venus" by Anne Michelle Peñaflorida of the College of the Holy Spirit

EMCEES Joe Shmoe and Lexi Schulz

CINDY Kurleto and George Pua

MIRIAM Quiambao

MENCHU Lauchengco Yulo and EJ Villacorta

GEORGE Pua and Mike Lu award the third prize for best Chinese costume to twins Richard and Simon Liu during the Kwang Tong resto opening.

MERYL Soriano and Malik

ROSELLE Nava

WENCY Cornejo

MODELS in traditional Chinese garb

MAKSIM of our dreams. The virtuoso pianist played incredible music and disarmed the audience with his winning rock-star presence.

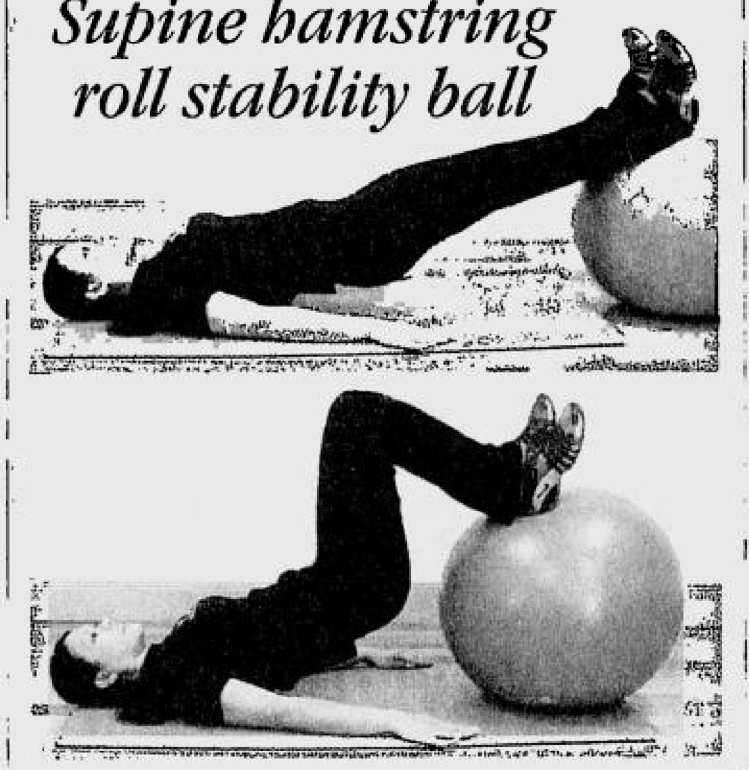
AYALA Land's hip couple Teresa and Javy Hernandez

CLASSICAL music enthusiasts Jenny Santi, Maryanne Lumen, and Arnold and Ruth Co with their daughter

FELLOW Croatians cheering for Maksim at his Greenbelt 3 Park concert

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Supine hamstring roll stability ball



STRENGTHENS buttocks and hamstrings (back of the thighs), challenges core (abdominal) muscles.

Equipment:

Stability Ball. You can substitute a chair with wheels.

Exercise technique:

1. Lie down on the mat with your legs straight and your heels on top of the ball.
2. Press down on the ball with your heels and lift your hips.
3. Stay in the lifted position as you bend your knees and roll the ball toward your buttocks.
4. Do the desired option.

Performance tips:

1. This is an advanced exerciser. Try it only when you are familiar with the straight leg and bent leg bridge.
2. Focus on keeping both hipbones level as you roll the ball back and forth.
3. Exhale when you roll the ball toward you, inhale when you roll the ball away from you.

Repetitions:

You have two options for doing this exercise:

a) Lift hips up, roll the ball toward you, roll the ball away from you, lower hips to the floor. This is considered one set. Do five sets.

b) Lift hips up, stay lifted as you roll the ball in and out 10 times, lower the hips to the floor.

When is the best time . . .

From page D1

may not make much of a difference for a recreational athlete, but may spell the difference between winning a gold or silver medal in a competitive event.

Researchers theorize that the body temperature peak between 4 and 5 p.m. may help facilitate anaerobic metabolism processes.

Neurologist Phyllis Zee of Northwestern University also believes that the best time to work out is in the late afternoon. As she explained to CNN, "The reason for that is your muscle strength is at its peak, its highest. You're going to be less likely to injure yourself. It's also a time when people are most awake and alert."

Zee further explained that body temperature in the afternoon is between one and two degrees warmer than in the morning, making muscles in the body more supple and lowering the risk of injury.

A study by the Research Institute for Sport and Exercise Science in England found that cyclists who considered themselves larks performed consistently better at 5:30 p.m. than at 7:30 a.m.

However, according to the researchers, the difference cannot be explained by the increased body temperature in the afternoon, because they made the cyclists do warm-up exercises to raise morning body temperature to the same level as that in the afternoon.

Clearly, more research needs to be done to find the exact reasons why athletic performance is better in the afternoon.

(To be continued)

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info or e-mail fitness@attglobal.net

Did ETs descend on Ciudad Verdadero?

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

ON NOV. 8 and 9, during what has become known as the Harmonic Concordance, I led a small group of like-minded people to a strongly charged mystic place in Quezon province to raise our vibrations and meditate for world peace.

The powerful energy that descended enabled most members of the group to expand their consciousness and receive personal messages from the spirit world.

Few individuals in this country knew about this cosmic event. It came and went with not even a passing mention in the mass media. The only reference made about it was a brief remark I made during my radio program about two weeks before the event.

So, what's the Harmonic Concordance? Actually, I myself was not aware of it until foreign-based Maya Daya, a sister of my former student, Marlotte Bacalla, sent me an e-mail explaining it.

It turned out that the Internet had a lot of info on it. According to one source, it referred to "an astrological moment that has a distinctive pattern or signature projecting a fundamentally spiritual energy and can be understood in terms in quantum metaphysics. It speaks of the descent of God-consciousness upon this plane and offers a moment in time when humankind can make a concerned effort to rise and meet it."

It is a moment of spiritual attunement that "opens an energetic Stargate to the ascension of Mother Earth."

Like its spiritual ancestor, the Harmonic Convergence of 1987, the Harmonic Concordance of 2003 was also "a call to the spirit of humankind to awaken to the idea that we are, in fact, spiritual beings sharing a physical experience."

Consequently, ceremonies and celebrations in honor of this idea were scheduled at sacred places and pilgrimage places throughout the world.

I was given a message to be at a sacred place where there is strong energy that would be beamed precisely at 6 p.m. and 12 mn of Nov. 8, and at 9 a.m. of Nov. 9. The outpouring of the spirit energy would be at its peak.

I chose to go to Ciudad Verdadero, a powerful mystic place in Sampaloc near Lucban, Quezon Province. It is a 23-hectare mountainous place privately owned and developed by businessman-turned-spiritual seeker Artemio Cataquiz of Pateros.

I believe that Ciudad Verdadero is the next Banahaw, with its powerful spiritual energy and presence of high spirits.

I was expecting only seven to 10 people to come during this special celebration, but the figure swelled to 25 on the day itself, including two foreigners, an Austrian and a Costa Rican.

A couple from Pila, Laguna who had heard of the event on my radio program suddenly turned up in the morning of Nov. 9th. It was their 25th wedding anniversary and they wanted to celebrate it in a sacred place and to get, according to them, my blessings. How they found the sacred place, which had no sign nor direction, was a mystery to us.

Terrible sound

Immediately upon arrival at the site, we gathered at the big rock or boulder which emits very strong energy, and I invoked the World Healing Meditation. At the middle of that prayer, a terrible sound, like that of a thousand crickets or cicadas, drowned my loud voice.

To some it sounded like a big engine or plane descending. The strange sound reached a crescendo and then suddenly stopped. There was dead silence except for the sound of my voice.

Then all of a sudden we were not alone. The presence of many unseen beings began to be felt by most of us gathered there.

That evening, at the multipurpose hall after dinner, at least four of our companions, including a highly skeptical female medical doctor, saw two huge pairs of eyes peering from the window-like opening. They were big extraterrestrial eyes!

Many ETs descended while we were meditating at the living rock earlier. So they were the cause of the strange sound we had heard.

At the multipurpose hall, several people began going into trance and receiving channeled messages from the spirit world, including a TV patrol reporter of ABS-CBN who was with us.

At midnight, as directed, I led the group to meditate at the Cretan Labyrinth on top of the hill. Several more participants went into trance, including the highly skeptical female doctor, because of the strong energy.

Individual and universal messages were received by each of them. One began crying uncontrollably and experienced profound emotional catharsis.

When we looked up at the full moon on top of us, we saw a big, strange multicolored corona around it. The cloud surrounding the moon formed into a circle like a circulating galaxy, the same pattern I saw mentally inside the big rock earlier, and the same pattern that was painted spontaneously and beautifully by Neth Ricaza, who never studied painting before.

Most of us slept at the multipurpose hall. Some tarried at the Cretan Labyrinth till early morning. At 9 a.m., we went to meditate at the spring with miraculous healing water, another power spot in Ciudad Verdadero.

Again, several individuals began going into trance and channeling messages from the spirit world. Most of the messages were about the need to save Planet Earth and to meditate for peace.

The messages also spoke of the assurance of ETs that they come in peace and that they want to help mankind.

We all went back to Manila before noon feeling highly charged and energized. One female companion of ours named Ellen texted me the next day saying she saw an ET in her room. It had followed her from Ciudad Verdadero.

The ET was kind and non-threatening. He wanted to communicate messages for me and for all mankind, according to her.

Whether one believes this fantastic story of what happened to us at Ciudad Verdadero is up to each reader. I am only a messenger.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Call 8107245 or 8926806. E-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to his dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

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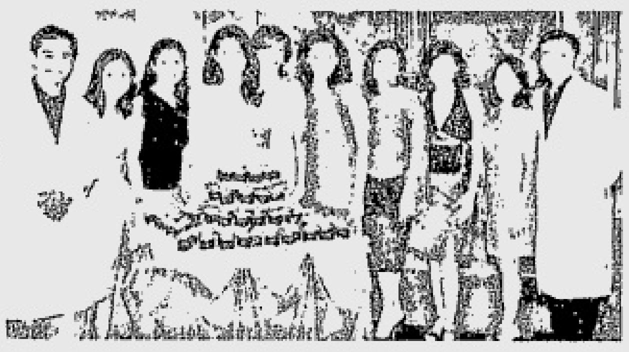
Marie-France and the Beauty of Being 18



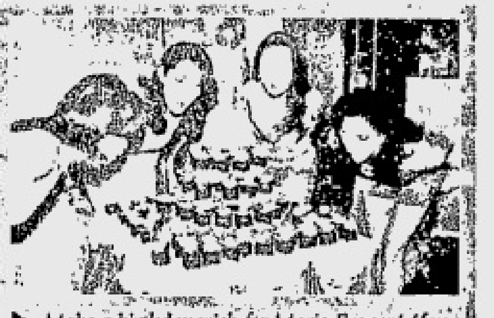
Celebrating 18 years of Marie-France: Carmi Martin, Vikki Estacio and Jeanette Pumaren (middle) with Marie-France Makati staff.

Remember when you were 18? Although much has changed since then, wouldn't you want to relive that light and lovely feeling by confidently revealing the lush, sexy curves that you once had? That's exactly what Marie-France Bodyline is encouraging women to do. Now on its 18th successful year, the country's leading no-pain, no-strain slimming solution recently celebrated its anniversary with an exclusive 2-day cocktail affair last Nov. 6 and 7 at their centers. Special guests included celebrity clients Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez and Carmi Martin, with testimonial talents Jeanette Jimenez-Pumaren and Vikki Santos-Estacio who shared their thoughts about Marie-France and the beauty of being 18.

"I was optimistic but also realistic," recalls Jeanette when she was 18, "Now, as I realized some of my dreams, I know I'm still able to make them come true." Although she had no insecurities with regard to her looks when she was 18, Vikki claims, "I look a lot better now at 51 than when I was 18. I've gained the envy of everybody because, at my age, I still look good and fit with Marie-France's help!" For Carmi, turning 18 is "the year of independence. By then, I was already working as a model and as an actress." It is also the age when you become more mature. "I wanted to gain more wisdom and other things that money can't buy. Now, I'm wiser, I've always stayed bubbly and I'm more graceful." Cristina relates the feeling of being 18 and how Marie-France recaptures it. "You're slim, you're healthier and more active. You're young again and you regain your confidence. I feel as if I'm fitter now because of Marie-France. And it's true, you'll really slim down." They are grateful to Marie-France for helping them to maintain their shapelier, sexier bodies through the years. Jeanette says, "What more can I say but thank you for making me as beautiful as I was before like I never thought I'd ever be again." Carmi adds, "I am a part of the Marie-France family. I really trust them with the way they take care of the clients. I wish them the best on their 18th birthday!"

Marie-France Makati branch manager Janet Vergara remarks about Marie-France's success. "Our clients are very supportive of us because we give them the proper slimming treatments and services. I'm inviting everyone to come to Marie-France and avail of our Buy 1, Take 1 offer for the whole anniversary month of November."

A goody basket full of 18 beauty care products for Marie-France's special guests.



Make a birthday wish for Marie-France! (from l-r) Vikki Estacio, Carmi Martin, Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez and Jeanette Pumaren

Ms. Janet Vergara presents the special anniversary goody basket to Marie-France testimonial talent Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez and Carmi Martin

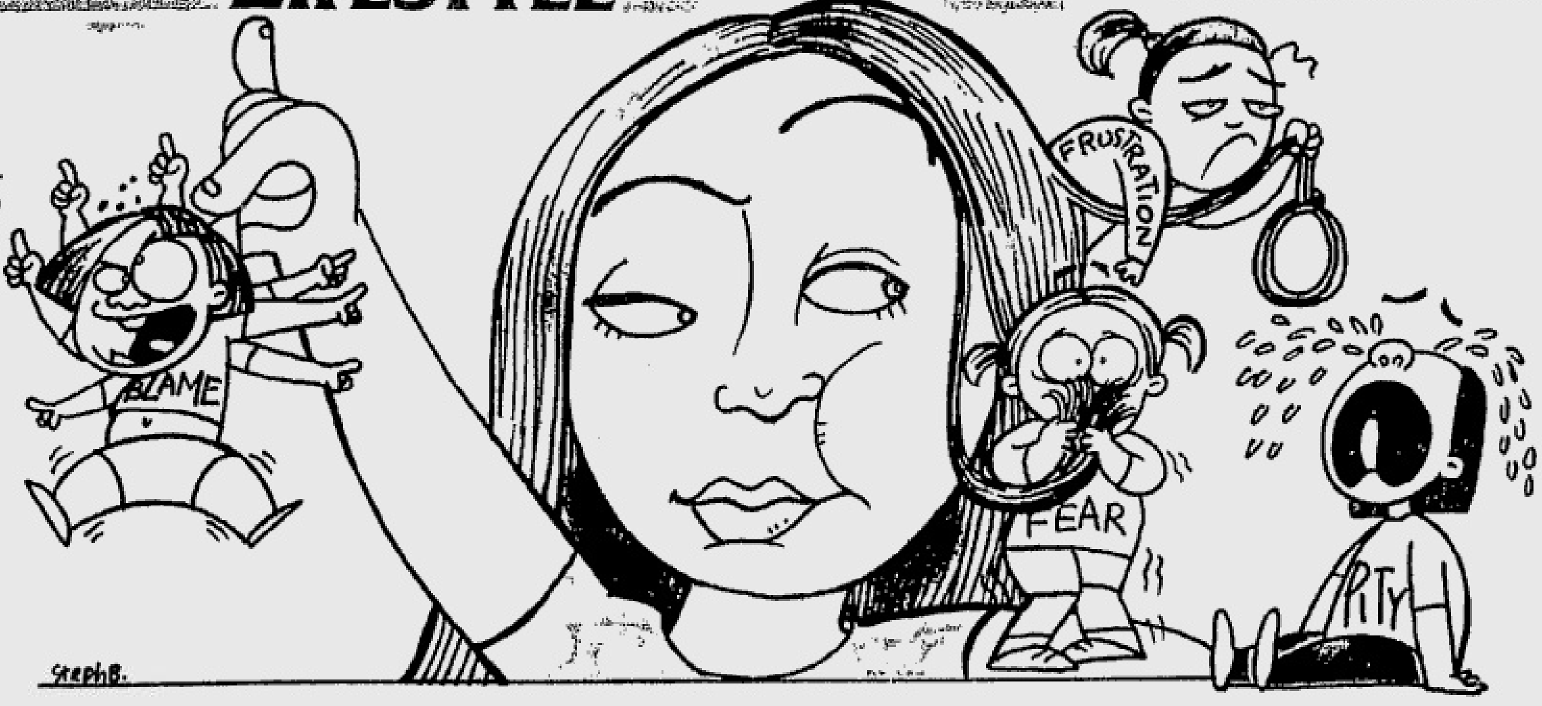
Marie-France Makati manager Ms. Janet Vergara makes her own birthday wish: long-lasting success for Marie-France

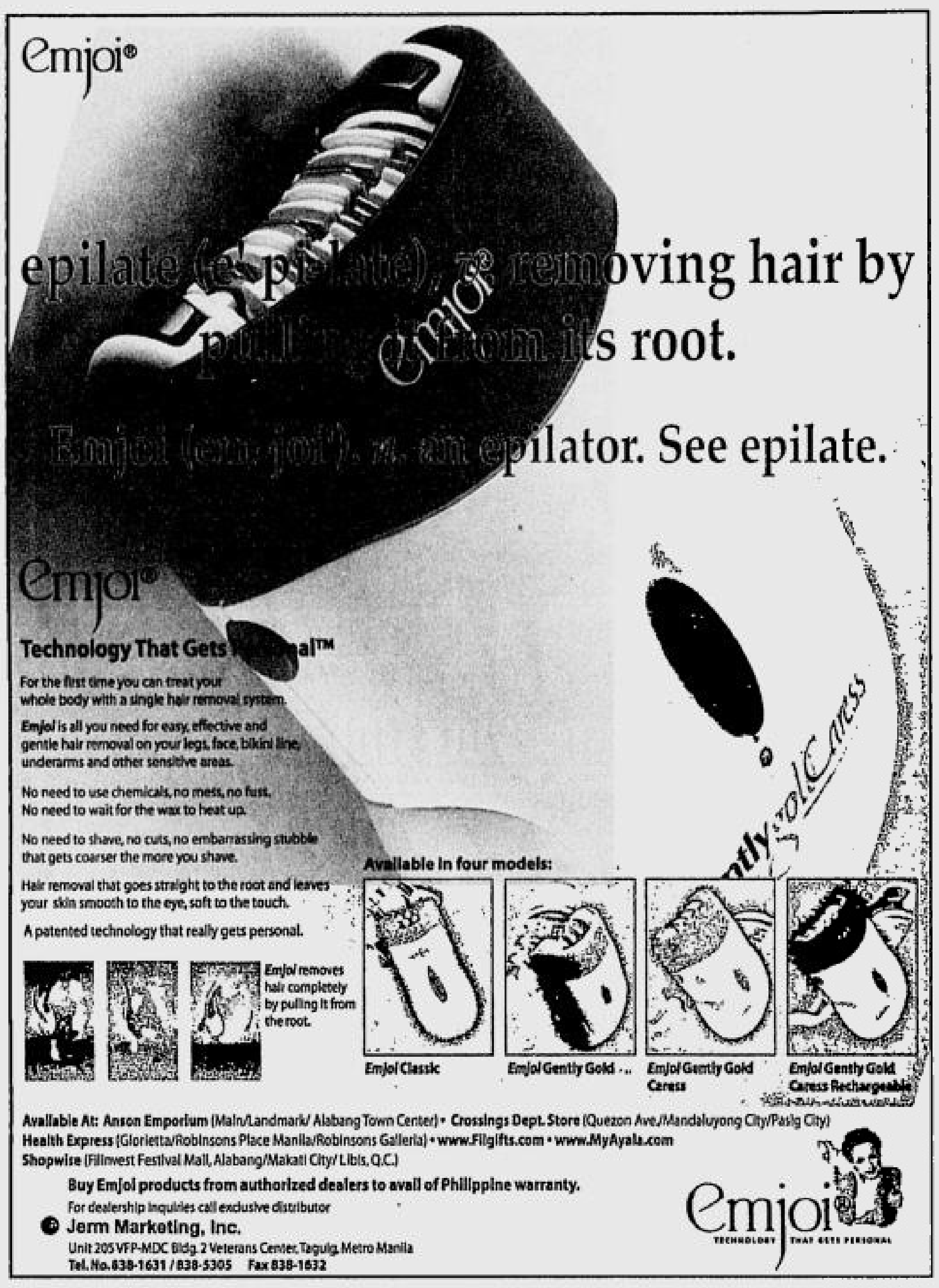
Celebrity clients Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez and Carmi Martin trust Marie-France to keep them shapely and sexy.

Have a FREE consultation at Marie-France and discover how you can benefit from their slimming services. Contact the following numbers: 816-1262 (Makati), 687-1216 (Ortigas), 372-6635 (Timog), 242-2199 (Binondo), 809-9619 (Alabang), 534-5898 (Shaw), 920-8021 (Congressional), 961-2981 (Pampanga) and 233-7637 (Cebu).

ADVT

The road to feeling and looking better is not as difficult as it may seem; you just need to lose certain attitudes first

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Emjoi TECHNOLOGY THAT GETS PERSONAL

Working for your red-letter days

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

IT'S good to be reminded about things that matter health-wise and events that propagate wellness.

Each time I am approached by people known and unknown to me, one universal question is most often repeated: "How can I look better?"

Touch first base

- Let's begin with you. Make a date with yourself. That means at least an hour of serious self-examination. Have a no-holds-barred conversation with your true self, the one that needs attention and that wants to change.
- Make a covenant with yourself. Not just an emotional pact, but one put down in writing. On a piece of paper, write down what your personal goals are. Then sign it.

Example: Goal—to lose 15 pounds in two months.

Plan: Exercise, cardio (running, swimming aerobics, basketball, taebo), strength training, body/mind toning (yoga, Pilates, tai-chi, workouts) three times a week for one hour.

- Rate yourself each day—one star, two stars or three stars, with three meaning excellent. With each star you accumulate, congratulate yourself. Verbally declare, while facing the mirror, "I am getting better and better!"
- Reward yourself with non-fattening, non-toxic gifts—a new dress, a day at the spa, a seminar on self-empowerment, a crafts/arts course, etc.
- Create your own life affirmation. It must be personalized. Example: "Beginning today, my life will behold miracles."

Lose them

The road to feeling and looking better is not as difficult as it may seem. You must lose certain attitudes first, such as:

Fear. Telling yourself you will fail will make you fail.

Pity. Giving yourself more negative energy will make you a loser.

Frustration. It's the inability to follow through and the tendency to give up so easily.

Blame. Blaming others for your failures (in health, love, job, goals) except yourself is called cowardice.

Gain your reward

There are pluses along the way that will build up your confidence.

Self-esteem. When you've earned three stars, you have everything to be proud about.

Courage. Knowing you have it in you to surmount trials and challenges will make things easier.

Satisfaction. Being happy about yourself leads to greater successes.

Love and light!

"Total Wellness: Body, Mind & Spirit" by Nestle Nutren with Jimmy Licauco and Cory Quirino will be on Dec. 3, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at Nestle Center, Rockwell, Makati City. Open to the public at P500 per participant (includes meals, handouts, plus one can of Nestle Nutren). Only the first 100 callers will be accommodated. Call 8980001 local 6713 and look for Richelle.

Basic Pranic Healing Course, Nov. 29-30. Learn to heal yourself by generating your inner power and discovering the goodness inside you. Call World Pranic Healing at 6872833 and look for Ms Faith Saway.

"Woman, You've Got The Power," a whole day of fun and empowerment, is open for women only. Admission is free. Includes exercise competitions and lectures on makeovers, skin care, health, hormones and stress management, empowerment and women's rights. Presented by Philippine Daily Inquirer, Nestle Fitness, Nutren, Dove, Energizer, Myra-E, Fila, Oliver's Sanwiches. Call 8132612 or 8132617.

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Do I always have to make appointments for visits to my doctor? How far in advance must they be scheduled?

Yes, as much as possible, make appointments for your visits. It is highly recommended that members call the medical coordinator's clinic in advance to set up a schedule for consultation. Generally, appointments set-up one or two days in advance does away with so much wasted time while waiting to be called in for consultation. In appointments with specialists, even for follow up check-ups, coordinate with the medical coordinator for the required referral form first, prior to setting an appointment.

Meet your MEDICard Team

A genuine love for children is one of the reason why **Dr. Evelyn Fernando** chose to specialize in Pediatrics. Dr. Fernando, who has been in this field for more than 10 years now, has been one of the HMO's instruments in achieving its promise of quality healthcare service since 1998. She finished Medicine at UERM-MMC and is now a Fellow to the Philippine Pediatric Society and member to the Quezon City and Philippine Medical Societies. For your needed consultations, visit Dr. Fernando's clinic at Room 302, the Medical Arts Building of Capitol Medical Center in Quezon City. She holds clinic from Mondays to Saturdays, 9 AM to 12 noon.

Contract Signing

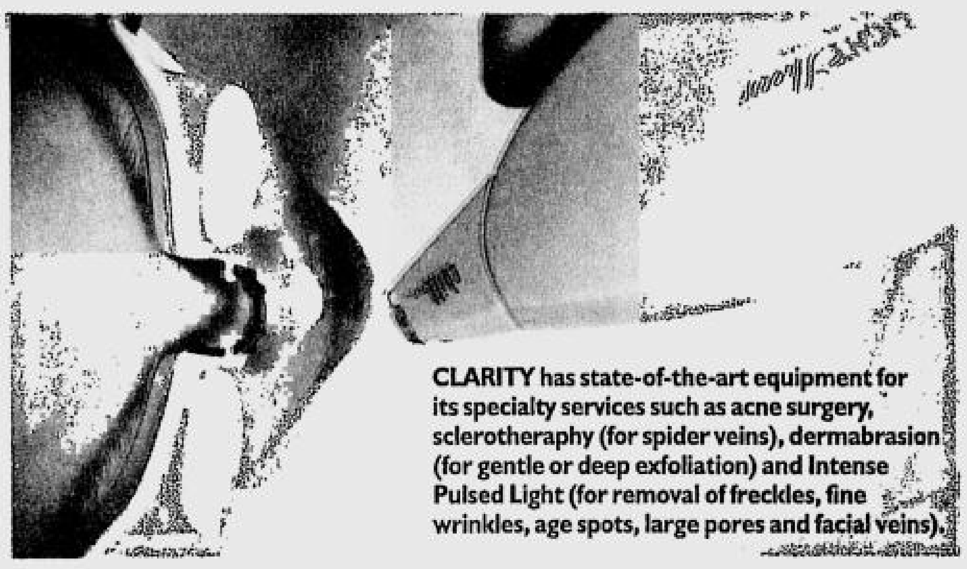
INTEGRATED DEVICE TECHNOLOGY (IDT), one of the country's leading semiconductor manufacturing and exporter companies, signed its corporate healthcare agreement with MEDICard. Present during the signing were Luis Montoya (MEDICard EVP & GM), Dr. Nicanor Montoya (MEDICard Pres.), Morry Oppenheim (IDT Pres. & GM), Mario Mayo Jr. (IDT HRD Mngr.) & Emmy Navarro (Marsh VP). (Standing L-R) MEDICard's Voltaire Victoria (Mktg. & Sales Mngr.) & Jong Jardiel (Mktg. Asst.) with IDT's Jesus Javillonar (C & B-Recruitment Mngr.), Rolinda Lim (Purchasing & IE Mngr.) & Michelle Flores (Co. Nurse) with Marsh Client Exec., Josie Ruanes.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 818-2161. For group or corporate membership, dial 812-8360, 817-5136 or 817-4985 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asia Pacific Region to be ISO CERTIFIED



CLARITY has state-of-the-art equipment for its specialty services such as acne surgery, sclerotheraphy (for spider veins), dermabrasion (for gentle or deep exfoliation) and Intense Pulsed Light (for removal of freckles, fine wrinkles, age spots, large pores and facial veins).

Aesthetic and laser center in a mall

THERE'S no end to what people will do in the pursuit of youth and beauty. And there's no end to what medical science can do, or will promise, to meet their highest expectations.

It was this vision of providing quality skin, body and dental care that's holistic, scientific and convenient to the public that led to the founding of Clarity Aesthetic and Laser Center at Shangri-La Plaza and SM City North Edsa.

"Clarity is manned by doctors and medical practitioners who are duly certified in their fields," says Dr. John L. Evangelista, CEO and president of Healthway Medical Clinics, Clarity's mother company.

The team is made up of professionally trained and board-certified experts in dermatology, cosmetic and plastic surgery, aesthetic dentistry and weight management.

Healthway's clinics—what Evangelista describes as "hospitals without beds"—have accessible locations in malls, the convenient centers of community life and activity in urban areas, where one can have a complete executive checkup in one day and still have time to attend important board meetings in the late afternoon.

Clients are asked to go through medical, dental, diet, hormonal, psychological and lifestyle analyses, says Evangelista, before they are given treatment.

"CLARITY is manned by doctors and medical practitioners who are duly certified in their fields," says Dr. John L. Evangelista, CEO and president of Healthway Medical Clinics, Clarity's mother company.

"We have state-of the-art equipment for all our specialty services," he adds.

These include sclerotheraphy (for spider veins); dermabrasion for gentle or deep exfoliation; laser treatment of warts, syringoma, skin resurfacing and skin pathologies like carcinoma and psoriasis; and Intense Pulsed Light treatments for treating freckles, fine wrinkles, age spots, large pores and facial veins.

The center's newest technology in aesthetic dentistry offers, among others, implants, tooth bleaching (the big trend in the US today), dental laminates, gum surgery, orthodontics and breath therapy.

Clarity Aesthetic and Laser Center is at 5/F Wellness Zone, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, and at the G/F of SM North Edsa Annex. Call 9104955 to 64.